

20 injured in Prague explosion

PRAGUE (AP) — About 20 people, including four children, were injured when a home-made bomb exploded in central Prague Saturday, six days before Czechoslovakia's first free elections in 44 years. "There are at least 14 people who were taken to hospital but several others went by themselves to seek medical aid," police officer Jan Jankovic said soon after the blast in the city's old town square. Robert Seifert, head of the Prague municipal police, said about 20 people had been injured, among them four children and one foreigner. Most were suffering from facial injuries but the foreigner, a woman, had a serious eye injury, said Seifert, quoted by the state news agency CTK. He did not give the foreigner's nationality. There was no immediate indication who was responsible for the explosion. Jankovic said the device, a metal tube about 30 centimetres long, scattered shrapnel and debris all over the square, which was filled with Saturday afternoon tourists.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

More candidates quit Kuwait polls

KUWAIT (AP) — Eleven candidates withdrew Saturday from elections for a Kuwaiti national assembly, leaving 395 to vote for 50 seats in the June 10 voting, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. A total of 172 candidates have withdrawn since registration closed May 9. The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint 25 of the members of the 75-seat house. A group of former deputies have urged the country's estimated 65,000-strong, all-male electorate to boycott the polls, arguing that the house will be a mere rubber stamp. It also wants the return of a parliament dissolved in 1966 by the Emir, who cited a foreign conspiracy to destabilize the country at the height of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war. The government says the assembly will not be a permanent substitute for the dissolved house and that its chief mandate will be to consider the future of democracy in the country. Several candidates have adopted this view in their election platform. "Let us make the national assembly a crossing point to the Majlis Al Umma (parliament)," one declared in a newspaper advertisement.

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U.N. mission holds talks in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A U.N. team investigating human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories held talks Saturday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid. The committee, appointed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1968, is investigating Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Committee Chairman Daya Perera of Sri Lanka told reporters the team would hold hearings with Palestinians in Cairo Saturday and Sunday. He said the committee had already visited Syria and Jordan and will report to the General Assembly on its tour. Israel has consistently refused to allow the committee to visit the occupied territories.

Kohl to meet Bush in U.S.

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will meet President George Bush in Washington next week to discuss this week's U.S.-Soviet summit. The four-day visit, announced by Kohl's office Saturday, will be his second trip to the U.S. capital in two weeks. He leaves West Germany Tuesday and will address the American Council on Germany in New York that evening. Kohl will travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to give the commencement address at Harvard University Thursday and will meet Bush at the White House Friday. In Washington, Kohl will be briefed on details of Bush's summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, in which the question of a future united Germany was discussed.

Lesotho king plans to return home

MESERU (AP) — Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II, forced into exile three months ago by the military government, said he has no money and plans to return to his tiny southern African nation, according to reports Saturday. The head of the ruling military council, Justin Lekhanya, did not say how he would respond if the king tries to come back. However, Lekhanya harshly attacked the king in a radio broadcast Saturday and accused the monarch of maintaining huge accounts in local and foreign banks. King Moshoeshoe II left Lesotho for Britain in March, three weeks after the military council stripped him of all his powers. The military council came to power in a 1986 coup and ruled Lesotho in consultation with the king, but the two parties had an increasing number of disputes in the past year over how to run the country.

Old guard camp protests in E. Berlin

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of supporters of the old Communist Party demonstrated in the East German capital Saturday to protest the government's decision to take control of the party's assets. The peaceful protest in the city centre drew about 10,000 people, the government news agency ADN said. The group was protesting the decision by parliament Thursday to freeze the vast holdings of the party, pending an investigation of its value and legitimacy. The former Communists amassed perhaps billions of marks in houses, businesses and property during their four decades in power. The regime was ousted in October, but its members and affiliated organisations still have vast holdings.

IRA claims attack

LONDON (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility on Saturday for killing two British soldiers in attacks in West Germany and at an English railway station. "Active service units of the Irish Republican Army carried out two separate operations against British military personnel in England and West Germany last night," said a statement issued by the IRA in Dublin. "While British troops remain in Ireland such attacks will continue," said the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland (see earlier story on page 8).

King thanks Iraq for assistance; further Gulf aid expected this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday thanked Iraq for granting Jordan \$50 million in financial aid and described the Iraqi gesture as an embodiment of altruism and as a great deed that will always be remembered and cherished by all Jordanians.

Iraq Friday formally notified Jordan that it would give the Kingdom \$50 million in financial aid this year and said it was studying financial assistance to the Kingdom for 1991.

"In my own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, and in expression of deep gratitude, I send you and the Iraqi people greetings and affection and appreciation for your generous gesture of support for Jordan," King Hussein said in a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Your decision to grant Jordan \$50 million in 1990, despite the present circumstances through which Iraq is going, is something we all realise can only be interpreted as an embodiment of altruism and a great deed that is a source of pride for us and precious to our hearts and conscience," the King said in his message carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Your initiative came as no surprise to us since Iraq has never acted except in a manner to serve the Arab Nation, and the Iraqi president has always represented the true feelings of the Iraqi people and manifested their highest ideal of honouring commitments by being loyal to the nation defending its cause," the King said.

"I would like to assure my brother the president that the Iraqi assistance is cherished by Jordan a great treasure because it carries sublime meaning in service of the great principles of the Arab Nation," the King said.

"Your keenness on being the first among the Arab leaders to offer financial assistance to Jordan in expression of Iraq's concern for and national commitment to defending this country in the face of dangerous is met by a firm commitment on the part of the Jordanian people who are determined to remain steadfast and totally committed to the Arab cause and who will honour the covenant binding of the Arab Nation. The Jordanians will never let down their Arab brothers; but will rather shoulder the sacred trust and serve their nation with pride."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran was meanwhile quoted as saying that Jordan would receive financial assistance from the Arab Gulf states this week as agreed at the Baghdad summit. Radio Monte Carlo also quoted the prime minister as saying that the amounts were not known yet.

"The Arab leaders have realised that Jordan's security and stability cannot be separated from pan-Arab national security and stability," the radio quoted the prime minister as saying. "The Baghdad summit resolutions were very clear and reflected very strong commitment to Jordan's security," he said.

Badran emphasised that the amounts of assistance were not discussed at all at the summit, and pointed out that it was left to individual Arab states to determine the amount of assistance.

The prime minister said Jordan attached special significance to the \$50 million assistance from Iraq, since "it has come from a country which is facing its own problems."

He added that Iraq was also studying how much assistance it could extend to Jordan for the year 1991 and indicated that the amount could be higher than the \$50 million for 1990.

Agreements signed on arms cuts, trade, energy and cultural cooperation

CAMP DAVID, Maryland (Agencies) — Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev got down to unfinished summit business like German unity and regional disputes Saturday amid the oak groves and breezes of the mountainside hideaway where diplomatic magic sometimes happens.

"The most important thing today is we're going to discuss the global flashpoints," a relaxed-looking Gorbachev told reporters as he and the U.S. president arrived and the U.S. navy shipper them aboard in the traditional Camp David greeting.

"They looked oddly formal in business suits and ties but their mood was not. 'We're in a totally relaxed environment here today,' Bush said before the two leaders and their wives, Raisa and Barbara, rode off aboard golf carts towards Aspen Lodge and a day of talks.

Bush and the Soviet president, who signed an array of arms control, trade and other accords Friday, flew in together aboard Bush's "Marine One" presidential helicopter and clearly hoped the transition from Washington's public glare to a rustic compound 100 kilometres away would be a tonic for them.

Raisa and Barbara flew by separate helicopter. The Bush-Gorbachev helicopter ride included one remarkable touch of irony: One of their companions, Air Force Major Bruce Canham, had strapped to his wrist the doomsday briefcase containing the codes Bush would need to launch nuclear war against the Soviet Union or anyone else.

The "nuclear football," as it is called, goes everywhere with the U.S. president. Gorbachev was accompanied by one Soviet bodyguard.

In a sign of the warming personal chemistry between Bush and Gorbachev, already evident at this summit, the two announced the Gorbachevs would stay two hours longer than scheduled and dine with the Bushes here.

Bush gets away to Camp David whenever he can and has said that if he can establish a special relationship with Gorbachev anywhere, it is here, against a backdrop of sun-dappled forests and

birdsong. They will need all the rapport they can muster to make any headway on U.S.-Soviet disputes over inclusion of a united Germany in NATO and Moscow's crackdown on Lithuania.

Although aides did not list those topics among the agenda items, it was certain they would not pass up an opportunity to review such dominant and unresolved summit topics.

Here, at a glance, are the U.S.-Soviet agreements announced Friday by Bush and Gorbachev at a White House ceremony.

— A "framework" accord on the major elements of a strategic arms reduction treaty, or START, to reduce each side's arsenal of long-range nuclear weapons by about one-third over a seven-year period.

— Commitment to completing START by year's end and to wind up another treaty on reducing conventional forces in Europe by the end of this year.

— An accord ending production of U.S. and Soviet chemical weapons and eliminating all but 5,000 tons of their existing chemical stockpiles. The deal is meant as a catalyst for a global agreement to ban production and possession of these weapons.

— A trade agreement that would move to superpowers closer to normal commercial relations, but would not grant trade concessions until the Soviets pass a free emigration law.

— A protocol spelling out anti-cheating measures for existing treaties that limit nuclear tests. The verification protocol will permit both nations to ratify the 1974 threshold test ban treaty and the 1976 peaceful nuclear explosions treaty, which limit U.S. and Soviet underground nuclear tests to 150 kilotons.

— An agreement expanding commercial air travel between the United States and the Soviet Union by adding four American and six Soviet cities to current airlines to run the routes.

— A new five-year atomic energy agreement to provide closer cooperation in nuclear reactor safety, fusion energy and basic atomic science.

— A grain deal committing the Soviets to buying at least 10

million tons annually, starting next year, of U.S. wheat, feed grains and soybeans. That is an increase of one million tons annually from a current agreement that took effect in 1983.

— A maritime transportation pact to make it easier for U.S. and Soviet commercial vessels to deliver goods to ports in one another's country.

— An agreement to open reciprocal cultural and information centres in Washington and Moscow.

— The first government-to-government agreement to increase student exchanges between the two countries.

U.S. Middle East policy

The United States has been "working long and hard to foster a dialogue in the region that would bring peace," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said when he was asked about Gorbachev's reported statements on Capitol Hill Friday that the Middle East peace process should be internationalised and the Soviet Union should be brought into the peace process.

"I think you are aware of our efforts through the Baker plan and our efforts to work with the Shamir plan to try bring a dialogue about," Fitzwater added. "We have a situation in Israel right now that is a little difficult because of the government situation. But, nevertheless, we continue to pursue peace through that process. We think it is the best course. And we are interested, and want to keep working to that end."

Soviet spokesman Arkady Maslennikov noted that the United States "will make good service to the settlement of the Middle East conflict if they cooperate more closely with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and particularly, maybe, (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat and those who represent them."

Ignoring this "internationally-recognised" force, Maslennikov added, does not help find the solution.

Fitzwater told a questioner that Cuba had not yet been discussed by the two presidents.

Royal Decree convenes Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday convening Parliament in an extraordinary session as of Saturday, June 2, 1990, in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of law 82 of the Constitution. The decree specified that the following laws be discussed by Parliament during the extraordinary session:

A draft defence law, 1990; Foreign investments draft law, 1990; Exports and imports draft law, 1990; "Dealings with the enemy" draft law, 1990; An amendment to the military service and reserves draft law, 1990; An amendment to the penal code draft law, 1990; An amendment to the penal trial systems draft law, 1990; Economic crimes draft law, 1990; An amendment to the Jordanian Universities Law, 1990; Temporary law number 20 for the year 1989 (an amendment to the higher education code); An amendment to the Higher Education Law, 1990; A draft law concerning the amendment of the National Medical Institution, 1990; Temporary law number 10 for the year 1989 (an amendment to the residence and aliens affairs); An amendment to the residence and aliens affairs law, 1990; Temporary law number 24 for the year 1989, (an amendment to the Islamic Sharia courts law); Temporary law number 35 for the year 1989 (an amendment to the Sharia courts system); Temporary law number 13 for the year 1989 (an amendment to the

independence of judiciary law); An amendment to the independence of judiciary draft law, 1990; A draft law of the amendment of the anti-communism law, 1990; A draft for the protection of the copyrights, 1990; Temporary law number 19 for the year 1989 (the public universities law); Temporary law number 34 for the year 1989 (care for the disabled); Temporary law number 11 for the year 1989 (the higher justice court); Temporary law number 28 for the year 1989 (the civil defence department); Temporary law number 31 for the year 1989 (the Jordanian national building code); Temporary law number 16 for the year 1989 (standards and specifications); Temporary law number 31 for the year 1988 (an amendment to the approp-

riation law); Temporary law 32 for the year 1988 (an amendment to the Amman Municipality court); Temporary law number 39 for the year 1988 (an amendment to the Jordanian Engineers Association law); Temporary law number 2 for the year 1989 (trial weights);

In addition, the agenda for parliament, as stipulated in the decree includes: Discussing the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration; Discussing the economic policy in the fields of prices and unemployment; Discussing the information and educational policy; Discussing the issues referred to the Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament and discussing the report of the audit bureau for the years 1987/1988.



Ahmad Obeidat

Panel on national charter elects committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Commission in charge of drafting the national charter met Saturday and elected five of its sub-committees, and postponed the election of two other panels pending the completion of work of the five committees.

The five committees elected Saturday and their office-bearers are: General Framework Committee — Chairman Ahmad Obeidat (who is also head of the General Commission), and Rapporteur Ibrahim Bakr;

Education and Culture Committee — Chairman Abdul Salam Al Majali, Rapporteur Fawzi Tuzmeh;

Pluralism and Sovereignty of Law Committee — Chairman Suleiman Hadi, Rapporteur Taher Hikmat;

Economic and Social Committee — Chairman Khalil Al Salem, Rapporteur Fawzi Gharabieh;

Jordanian National Security Committee — Chairman Hamad Farhan, Rapporteur Sultan Hattab.

The two committees which were delayed are: A committee on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and a committee on Arab, Islamic and international affairs.

The heads and rapporteurs of the elected committees will meet Sunday to set dates for meetings of their respective panels.

Corruption case findings involving 'ministers' to go before House

AMMAN (Petra) — The office of the prosecutor-general will refer all documents and papers related to corruption cases involving serving or former ministers to the Lower House of Parliament, which can in turn level charges or refer those involved to trial, the prosecutor-general said Saturday.

Investigations into the cases are continuing and the procedure of submitting the findings will be taken in accordance with Article 56 of the Jordanian Constitution, Prosecutor-General Mohammad Farid Al Smadi said. He made the statement in the wake of a decision by the Higher Council, which interpreted Article 55 of the Constitution concerning the term "ministers" to mean serving and former ministers alike.

The prosecutor-general's office will first complete investigation of those who are not classified under the "minister" category and will issue charges against those who will be proved to have committed violations of the law before referring them to civil courts for trial, Smadi said.

In accordance with Article 55 of the Constitution and the interpretation given by the Higher Council, the office of the prosecutor-general is not empowered to issue charges against ministers because this is the sole authority of the Lower House,

according to Article 56 of the Constitution, Smadi added.

Article 57 empowers the Higher Council to interpret laws and Constitution articles. The council comprises the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament as chairman, three members to be chosen by the Senate and five judges from the highest civil court, which is the court of cassation, Smadi said.

He said that the Higher Council has two authorities; the first as stipulated in Article 55 of the Constitution, states: "Ministers could be tried before the Higher Council for involvement in crimes committed in the course of conducting their duties. The term 'ministers' was absolute while Article 61 stated that a minister who could be charged by the Lower House should be relieved of his duties, and this in turn means a serving minister."

Since the prosecutor-general's office has no power to interpret articles of the Constitution and in order to avoid any complications by offering interpretation of its own, it referred the matter to the minister of justice so that he can seek the Cabinet's approval of requesting the Higher Council to give interpretation of Article 55 of the Constitution, specifically an interpretation of the term "ministers" whether it means former or serving ministers.

Upon this request the Cabinet asked the Higher Council to issue an interpretation to Article 55, Smadi added. He said that on May 28, 1990 the Higher Council issued a resolution clearly stating that the term "ministers" means both serving and former ministers.

In the course of investigation

Palestinian frustration may lead to anti-U.S. attacks — Nusseibeh

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian leader in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip warned Saturday that U.S. targets in the region might be attacked as anti-American sentiments intensify.

Palestinians are angry over Washington's veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a council force to be sent to the occupied territories to report on Israeli abuses there. The vote was 14-1.

U.S. embassy spokesman Don Coffman said that U.S. officials "are aware of the mood in the territories," but would not comment when asked whether additional steps had been taken to protect Americans.

The U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory for the Middle East Thursday, urging American travellers to use "extreme caution." The advisory cited the recent upsurge of violence.

Coffman, meanwhile, refused comment on reports confirmed by Israeli officials that the U.S. embassy was one of the targets of Palestinian guerrillas who launched a sea raid on Wednesday. The attack was aborted. Four guerrillas were killed and 12 captured.

Military analyst Ron Ben-Israel said on Israel Radio Saturday that the guerrillas planned to fire Soviet-made Katyusha rockets from their speedboats on the embassy, located in Tel Aviv's beachfront hotel district. Ben-Israel writes for the Yediot Ahronot daily.

The attack was claimed by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF). The U.S. State Department has left open the possibility that the attempted raid could

Jordan registers its position on U.S. veto

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Saturday informed the American ambassador of Jordan's view that Thursday's American veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories had negative impacts on the Middle East, an official source said. The source, quoted by the French news agency (AFP), said Qasbi called in U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Soudarth to the Foreign Ministry to convey the Jordanian position.

Qasbi said that the American veto of the resolution "has negative impacts on the Middle East, an official source said. The source, quoted by the French news agency (AFP), said Qasbi called in U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Soudarth to the Foreign Ministry to convey the Jordanian position."

Nusseibeh, described by Israel as one of the heads behind the 30-month Palestinian uprising, said there was growing pressure from young Arab activists to step up violence against Israel.

"I believe more and more Palestinians will turn to using guns and explosives. I assume that the unified leadership will probably go with the people," said Nusseibeh, referring to the underground umbrella group of various factions coordinating the uprising.

In this context, he said, "it's quite possible that there will also be attacks against American targets. I'm thinking of people who will just want to express their anger, both against American symbols and American institutions."

Nusseibeh said he and others urging restraint were becoming increasingly isolated. Until now, the uprising leadership has ordered activists to stick to stones and firebombs, saying that the use of firearms would only give Israel an excuse to crack down harder.

Abbas apologises to Arafat, vows fresh attacks on Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — The leader of the Palestinian group which carried out an abortive raid on Israel says PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat did not know in advance about it and warned more attacks will be launched against the Jewish state, the Al Watan daily reported Saturday.

"We vow to continue the struggle until the objective of our people in independence and liberation is achieved," Mohamed Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), was quoted as saying in an interview. The daily did not say where he was interviewed.

"We mean what we say. This operation is the beginning of a combat effort against the Israeli enemy to match the upgrading of pan-Arab awareness," he said.

He declared that Wednesday's abortive seaborne raid "will certainly have a profound effect" on the expected emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel over the next few years.

Abbas, also known as Abu Abbas, was the mastermind of the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner, Achille Lauro, in the Mediterranean.

The PLF wing led by Abbas is part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But it is not considered to be directly controlled by Arafat.

Abbas apologised to Arafat, whose nom de guerre is Abu Ammar, for not informing him in advance of Wednesday's attack in which four guerrillas were killed and 12 captured.

But he said: "We're under no obligation to inform Abu Ammar beforehand about any operation. He's the No. 1 fighter and I think he knows well that violence breeds only violence."

Israel's Foreign Ministry has said Arafat knew about the raid beforehand. But Israeli military intelligence officials have said they doubt that.

The U.S. State Department, which opened talks with the PLO in December 1988 after Arafat renounced terrorism as part of a peace initiative, has warned that dialogue is in jeopardy unless Arafat condemns the PLF action.

Arafat has disassociated the PLO from the operation, but has

stopped short of condemning it outright.

Arafat also rejected Washington's demand that Abbas, a member of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee, be expelled from the movement.

He said that could only be done by the Palestine National Council.

Abbas said Arafat's reaction was "objective" and noted: "It's true the PLO has nothing to do with the operation."

He said he did not believe that Wednesday's attack was an embarrassment to Arafat at a time when he is talking to the United States.

Abbas argued that "the Americans should be embarrassed because they reached agreements with him 100 times and failed to honour their agreements."

He denied Israeli claims that Wednesday's operation was launched from Libya and said neither Libya nor Iraq were involved.

Abbas said the raid was "a message to the superpower summit — a two-fold message, that the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle until the liberation of Palestine and the achievement of independence, and that... they should be fully aware that the influx of Jews

into Palestine is a crime against Palestinian human rights."

He insisted that there were Israeli casualties in Wednesday's raid, despite Israel's claim it suffered none.

He said the raid was code-named "Operation Jerusalem" in response to the non-binding resolutions passed in recent weeks by the U.S. Congress and Senate deeming Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal capital."

But he said the May 20 massacre of seven Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv was the main factor in the timing of the attack which had been planned for two years and cost \$3 million.

He linked it as well to Israel's failure to respond to the PLO's peace overtures and Washington's support for the Jewish state.

"I want to ask where is peace?" he said, referring to the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Is it attacking our mosques and churches? Is it subjugation to Israel and the United States? This is submission rather than peace," he said.

"The PLO has been preaching peace for two years, until peace has become capitulation."

Arab papers call for economic boycott of U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Arab commentators, angered by the U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding mission to Israeli-occupied areas, called Saturday for an economic boycott of America.

"The Arabs should adopt a final attitude towards the U.S. based on stopping economic dealings with Washington, including banning American companies and banks from operating in Arab countries," said Qatar's Al-Raya newspaper.

"All imports from America, topped by weapons and planes, should stop."

"By doing so we will lose nothing except an enemy fighting us with all means and harming our interests, while America will lose much because it will find no substitute for our investments in its companies and banks," it said.

Fourteen of the 15 Security Council members voted Thursday to send a three-member commission to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to recommend ways to protect Palestinians but the U.S. veto overrode their votes.

Resort to the U.N. followed the murder of seven Gaza Strip Arabs by an Israeli described as "deranged" and an ensuing escalation in the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The Jordanian newspaper Al-Rai said the veto was tantamount to a "green light to the aggressors to commit more crimes."

"It also demonstrates American insistence on preventing the international community from exercising any role to protect the Palestinian people from extermination, liberate their land and establish peace and stability in the (Middle East) region," (see page 4).

The English-language Qatari newspaper Gulf Times said by using the right of veto against the resolution Washington has again isolated itself.

"It has once more shown its disregard for the international community and Palestinians who die daily in occupied territories at the hands of the Israelis."

The Saudi Arabian newspaper Okaz said Arabs "demand a satisfactory explanation from Washington for using the veto."

"It is the stand to be taken by the Arabs and Palestinians towards this explanation that will determine to a great extent the fate of the peace process in the region."

In Oman, Al Watan newspaper said: "The American use of the right of veto means undermining all peace efforts in the Middle East."

"The U.N. commission, had it gone to occupied territories, would have discovered shameful acts committed by the Israeli authorities against human rights advocated by the U.S."

Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad said the vote "opens the door for more Israeli aggression which is not far off."

"Our retaliation will be the best Arab veto against the American veto."

EC repeats call for international conference

BRUSSELS (AP) — the European Community (EC) Saturday condemned new acts of violence in the Middle East and appealed again for an international conference and peace settlement.

Noting the alarming build-up of recent attacks by Israelis and on the Israeli coast, the EC repeated its appeal for calm and restraint, stating that "it is only through negotiation that the cause of peace in this troubled region can be advanced."

"The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable," the EC said in an official statement, reiterating the need for early progress in the direction of a peace settlement.

The twelve EC nations also repeated their "determination to encourage all efforts to promote a dialogue leading to a comprehensive settlement in the framework of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

The EC called for U.N. action to protect the population of the occupied Arab territories and pledged continued commitment to its economic and social development.

U.S. will be responsible if Israel attacks — Libya

IBEIRUT (Agencies) — Libyan Ambassador Ashour Fortas said Saturday the United States will be held responsible for any Israeli attack on Libya in retaliation for an abortive seaborne Palestinian raid on the Jewish state.

He said in an interview on the Communist-run Voice of the People radio station that Israel was consulting "with the United States for an aggression against Libya."

He declared: "The United States would definitely be held responsible for such an aggression."

"The Zionist entity would not carry out any act against any state without obtaining the green light from the United States because the United States provides cover for such acts in the United Nations," the envoy added.

Four guerrillas from the Palestine Liberation Front were killed in Wednesday's raid. Twelve others were captured. The Israelis said they suffered no casualties.

Israel's head of military intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shashak, said the raiders' support ship sailed from the Libyan port of Benghazi. He also claimed that some Libyans, including a military officer, were aboard the ship.

Fortas called on Arab states to "prove their solidarity and support" for Libya if Israel launched an attack.

Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon went on maximum alert in anticipation of a retaliatory Israeli air raid, Palestinian sources said.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said guerrilla factions in Lebanon have

Ethiopian rebels to turn over Cubans to U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — Ethiopian rebels are surrendering to U.S. diplomats in Sudan a Cuban physician and nurse captured six months ago in the fall of a western Ethiopia town, the Sudanese embassy said Saturday.

Counsellor Abdul Rahman Hamza said his Foreign Ministry in Khartoum did not explain how the United States came to be involved in the case. The U.S. embassy in Khartoum was closed because of the weekend.

Cuba, a staunch opponent of the United States, has diplomatic relations with Sudan but no embassy in Khartoum. In Cairo, Cuban Ambassador Jorge Cubiles Hernandez said he knew nothing of the plan.

The captive Cubans, Dr. Pedro Ulaka, 35, and Yolanda Hernandez, 23, both of Havana, will be turned over in the Sudanese capital Thursday, Hamza said.

The pair disappeared in the first week of January with four other Cuban medical personnel during heavy fighting at Asosa in far western Ethiopia, just east of the Sudanese border. In announcing the disappearances,

the Cuban embassy in Addis Ababa said "elements of the Sudan National Army" participated in taking the town.

It said the medical workers were ordered on Jan. 4 to stay and "care for the sick and the wounded" despite evacuation of Asosa by Ethiopian officials. They could not be contacted the next day, the Cuban statement said.

Neither Ethiopia nor Sudan commented on the claim of Sudan's involvement in the battle for Asosa. But over the years, the northeast African neighbours have exchanged accusations frequently of providing help to rebels opposed to the other government.

A tribal resistance group active since the early 1970s, the Oromo Liberation Front, claimed the Asosa success. It said its fighters killed, wounded or captured 1,200 Ethiopian government troops in seizing the town.

The rebels said they had taken Cuban prisoners as well. Two were released in April in Sanaa, Yemen.

Hizbollah links fate of Britons to Rushdie's expulsion

BEIRUT (R) — A Hizbollah leader Saturday repeated his call for Britain to expel author Salman Rushdie as a way of speeding the release of British hostages in Lebanon.

"The freedom of one of the British hostages could be the price of Britain's decision to expel Salman Rushdie," Hussein Musawi told the international television news agency Visnews.

"We advise the British government to think how to expel Salman Rushdie... this act would of course have very positive impact on the issue of the British hostages," said Musawi, who made two similar statements earlier this week.

He is a senior official in Hizbollah (Party of God), believed to be holding most of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon. Three are Britons — Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mann.

"Certain Islamic groups holding the Britons could... release some of the hostages in return for Rushdie's expulsion," Musawi said. His group has denied involvement in kidnapping.

In February last year the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill Rushdie, accusing him of blasphemy in his novel the Satanic Verses. The Muslim-born author has since been in hiding in Britain.

Musawi said a possible unofficial visit to Tehran by British members of parliament to discuss the fate of the Britons could yield positive results "if they follow the right method."

Lebanese kidnappers in April released two Americans who had been held more than three years. They described the decision as a goodwill gesture.

Saudi Arabia warns Iran against misleading campaigns

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has warned Tehran against misleading campaigns and reiterated Iran was preventing its nationals from performing the Muslim pilgrimage due to economic difficulties.

An official source said in a statement on Friday night Iranian information media and certain officials "are persisting in their misleading campaigns... claiming the kingdom is preventing Iranians from making the pilgrimage."

The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), said: "If the Iranian government cannot permit Iranians to perform the pilgrimage due to economic or financial reasons, it should at least keep quiet rather than blame the kingdom for the ban."

"We wish to warn of the consequences of maintaining misleading campaigns because they can no longer deceive Muslims, especially the Iranian people," it added.

Iranian and Saudi officials failed last month to agree on solving differences over the annual pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina due late this month.

Saudi Arabia said Tehran had almost agreed on terms for the pilgrimage this year but had blocked a solution by demanding pilgrims be allowed to hold rallies against the "enemies of Islam."

More than 400 people, mainly Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during the 1987 pilgrimage after anti-Israeli and anti-Western riots.

This prompted Saudi Arabia to introduce a quota system cutting the number of Iranian pilgrims by more than two-thirds to about 45,000.

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Many Algerians indifferent to elections

CONSTANTINE, Algeria (R) — In the packed cafe patronised by fans of Algeria's oldest soccer team, Club Sportif Constantinois (CSC), Karim knocked back a soft drink and said he could not care less about his country's first free elections this month.

"Why should I vote? It's not going to change anything. Is it going to help me get a job?" asked the 23-year-old unemployed youth whose generation has been hard hit by Algeria's economic crisis.

Many Algerians have greeted the campaign for the June 12 municipal and provincial elections with profound indifference. They do not see how the emerging multi-party democracy will help them overcome pressing problems — lack of jobs, housing and consumer goods.

They are also sceptical of an electoral process that for 28 years since independence from France has been entirely controlled by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

"The FLN is going to win anyway," said Karim cynically. In the crumbling old city of Constantine, capital of the Algerian east, walls of Turkish-era houses are covered with slogans and acronyms but they have nothing to do with politics.

"Long live CSC," is the most common — the team, founded under French rule in 1886, has been doing well this season. The battle that really seems to interest Constantine men is that between the CSC and its traditional rival, Mouloudia Olympique de Constantine (MOC), which has its own cafe a few doors away.

Opposition parties and candidates with the exception of the powerful Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have been handicapped by lack of financial means, voter apathy and inexperience.

"The campaign is dead. It's very surprising. We were expecting a real clash of ideas, healthy and peaceful but intense. This has not happened," said Abdul Hamid Ibn Hamla, spokesman for an independent list called "free youth."

Mayoral candidate Riad Bencheikh Al Fegoum fears voters will simply stay home.

"We are heading for a 50 per cent abstention rate. It's a population that has been marginalised for too long, the 18-30 age group that constitutes a majority of the population. Nobody really has a message able to get through to them," he said.

Campaign posters and candidate lists did not even appear until several days after the official start of the campaign on May 21. They have since been systematic

Iraq dredges 90% of waterway

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday it had dredged 90 per cent of the important Shatt Al Arab Waterway, disputed with Iran and closed to shipping since the Gulf war started in 1980.

Dredgers have also cleared 130 smaller rivers and streams nearby, the official Iraqi News Agency quoted the head of the Al Faw Company for Irrigation Projects as saying.

The official did not say whether the 160 kilometre waterway, flowing into the northern Gulf and Iraq's main outlet to the sea, was ready to take shipping.

The waterway was a major cause of the war and has been a bone of contention since a 1988 ceasefire. Iran says the border runs down the middle, while Baghdad insists in runs along the Iranian bank.

When fighting started ships were sunk in the waterway and barbed wire and mines made it a no-go area. Iran has said it wants Iraqi troops to pull out of several hundred square miles of its territory before it will agree to reopen it.

The peaceful demonstration was called by the head of the Socialist Forces Front, Hocine Ait Ahmed, it attracted above all Berber-speaking citizens of the Kabyle regions, and their signals calling for "real democracy" and "linguistic pluralism" was written mainly in Berber.

Previous marches, by the Islamic Salvation Front on April 20, the "democrats" on May 10 and the ruling National Liberation Front on May 17, drew more than 100,000 people.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:42	Maghreb
Tel: 773111-19	21:15	Isaa
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	Programme review	Koran
15:45	Children programme	15:45
16:00	Football	16:00
16:15	News summary in Arabic	16:15
16:30	Local programme	16:30
16:45	Cultural programme	16:45
16:55	Programme review	16:55
17:10	Local programme	17:10
17:25	News in Arabic	17:25
17:40	Arabic series	17:40
17:55	Programme review	17:55
18:10	Local programme	18:10
18:25	Varieties programme	18:25
18:40	News in English	18:40
18:55	Agatha Christie's Poirot	18:55
PROGRAMME TWO		
17:50	Tel Pere Tel Fils	17:50
18:05	L'ecole de la Fam	18:05
18:20	News in French	18:20
18:35	French varieties	18:35
18:50	News in Hebrew	18:50
19:05	Varieties programme	19:05
19:20	News in Arabic	19:20
19:35	Who's the Boss	19:35
19:50	Doc. "Horizon"	19:50
20:05	News in English	20:05
20:20	Agatha Christie's Poirot	20:20
PRAYER TIMES		
6:52	Fajr	6:52
12:34	(Sunrise) Dhuhr	12:34
16:14	"Asr	16:14

CHURCHES	Min./max. temp.
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeth, Tel. 810740	10 / 22
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	19 / 30
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	14 / 26
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440	18 / 39
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrazas Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 813817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy and mild and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea wavy.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Issam Abu Riza	681967
Dr. Wael Dumasi	(—)
Dr. Amr Al Ashab	602507
Dr. Ahmad Othman	785384
Fires pharmacy	622520
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairook pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
REPAIR:	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Dr. Nash'at Ammari	(—)
Khalaf pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	642219
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport. 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Center 813813/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Ama. 6442816
Aklieh Maternity, J. Ama. 6044142
Jalal Azzam Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeicani 66417114
Shmeicani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musafir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666212/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416446
Ibadan, Al-Mudajjem 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75511126
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Aman Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)986732
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Shams Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)47100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)514111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00	Jeddah (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Cairo (RJ)
11:00	Madrid (RJ)
11:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:00	Paris, Rome (RJ)
11:00	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:15	London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:25	Larnaca (CY)
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Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar Saturday meets with a group of European parliamentarians (Petra photo)

European parliamentarians briefed on refugee situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-member group representing the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC) has started a 10-day tour of countries in the Middle East at the invitation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to examine the condition of Palestinian refugees and discuss Middle East issues with government officials in Jordan, Israel and Syria.

The group's first stop was Amman where they met Saturday with Director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, who briefed the group members on the situation in the region and the general conditions of refugees.

Qatanani explained the existing cooperation between UNRWA and the Jordanian government in providing assistance to the refugees in Jordan and urged the international community to donate more funds to the agency to help it carry out its humanitarian services to the refugees in its fields of operations.

Qatanani referred to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories, pointing out Israel's continued human rights violations which have negative consequences on the Palestinian people in general and the refugees in particular.

"Israel's pursuit of its Jewish settlement programmes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is endangering world peace and its absorption of large numbers of Soviet Jewish immigrants is bound to perpetuate Zionist occupation of Arab homeland," Qatanani said.

CAEU appeals to members to fulfil financial commitment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Saturday issued an appeal to the Arab countries to honour their commitments to the council and to work seriously towards reviving the Arab common market.

"The CAEU is in financial difficulties resulting from failure on the part of several Arab states to pay their commitments to the council's budget and this failure has obstructed the council's work and delayed important services to help bring about Arab economic integration," said CAEU's Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim in a statement marking the council's 26th anniversary.

"The CAEU is in need of support from Arab countries to help resolve numerous economic issues in Arab countries and also to help bring about the aspired integration," said Ibrahim in his statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Last March Kuwait announced that it was leaving the council because, it said, the latter had rejected several proposals for improvements. Kuwait had previously covered nearly one third of the council's annual budget, but had failed to pay its dues for the past four years and now owes more than \$1.5 million.

Ibrahim in March issued a statement appealing to Kuwait to remain the council member and pledged to introduce all the changes as suggested by Kuwait.

"As a first step the CAEU was restructuring its management system by cutting the salaries of its employees by up to 25 per cent and reducing the number of staff also by 25 per cent. In addition the council's annual budget will be cut to \$1.15 million down from \$3.5 million, Ibrahim said.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Badran condoles Abu Ragheb, Hamarsheh families

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday visited Abu Al Ragheb family to offer condolences on the death of Issa Hassan Abu Al Ragheb. Badran Saturday also visited Al Hamarsheh family to offer condolences on the death of the wife of Mirweh Anis Al Hamarsheh.

Dughmi receives outgoing envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi received Saturday the Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lomback at the end of his tour of duty. Lomback said he would work on strengthening cooperation between Jordan and Sweden in the field of conservation of nature in his new post at the Swedish foreign ministry. The meeting reviewed the prospect of helping Jordan establish a garbage processing plant.

Rotarians brief Al Zaben on activity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The "Polio-polis" committee of the Jordan Rotary Club visited Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Saturday and briefed him on its activities which back the ministry's primary health care programmes in Jordan. A committee spokesman said that 750,000 doses of polio would be provided for the benefit of children during 1990 and the three coming years, worth \$370,000. Zaben voiced the ministry's appreciation of the committee and the Rotary Club whose efforts are being coordinated with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Minister opens JUST exhibition

RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz opened Saturday an exhibition at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The week-long exhibition, which was organised by the university's Faculty of Engineering, displays wood, metal and glass products, equipment used in scientific laboratories in the faculties of medicine, engineering, agriculture and science as well as samples of fine spare parts and furniture manufactured to cover the university's needs.

Jordan to attend Arab postal talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab Postal Training College board of trustees which will start in Damascus Monday. Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation Director-General Abdullah Al Jazi, who will represent Jordan in the meetings, said the five-day meetings would discuss the status of the college and its future after being affiliated to the General Secretariat of the Arab League. Jazi said that he would hold talks with officials from the Syrian Postal Administration to discuss scopes of cooperation and coordination between Jordan and Syria.

IDB approves industrial loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Saturday gave its approval of five loans worth together JD 610,000 to finance several industrial schemes in Jordan. Since the start of 1990, the IDB provided 40 loans to Jordanian businesses altogether worth JD 6.548 million.

ACC ministers of awqaf urge cooperation in religious affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior officials from ministries of awqaf and Islamic affairs in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries opened a three-day meeting here Saturday to work out a programme for the implementation of an ACC agreement on cooperation in religious affairs.

Resolutions and recommendations to be reached at the meeting will be submitted to the ministers of awqaf and Islamic affairs who are due to hold a meeting in Baghdad on June 14 and 15, according to Dr. Ahmad Hilayel, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary-general.

Hilayel said the officials, all secretaries-general of the ministries of awqaf in Egypt, Yemen, Iraq and Jordan, would explore means of implementing the 13-point agreement which was reached by the ACC ministers last February.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared a working paper providing ideas on the implementation of the agreement, underlining Jordan's principles of centrism and religious tolerance in dealing with religious related issues in the four countries," Hilayel said.

He said that the Jordanian paper calls for unified systems in conducting sermons at mosques, religious and Sharia colleges and Islamic centres operations.

He said such questions as organising annual Islamic book exhibitions, support for Islamic centres in the ACC countries, matters related to pilgrimage and zakat (alms to the poor) and Islamic jurisprudence would be reviewed at the three-day meeting.

Jordan to get JD 7m food aid from WFP

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) is to provide Jordan with JD 7 million worth of food supplies over the coming four years for the benefit of school children and social development centres in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Munther Al Masri, secretary-general of the Ministry of Education.

Masri made the announcement upon returning from a visit to Rome where he discussed WFP assistance to Jordan in the form of food for school children, a programme conducted by the WFP in the past years.

Masri, who took part in meetings which discussed school food programmes among other activities conducted by the U.N. agency in the Third World, said that primary schools operated by the Ministry of Education, centres run by the Queen Aila Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and literacy centres providing basic education to rural regions would benefit from the food programme over the coming four years.

Masri said that the Jordanian government was expected to contribute to the third year in the programme by five per cent, of its cost to be raised to 15 per cent in the fourth year.

"A total of 64,900 people including students, women and children in the schools, rural literacy centres, nurseries and social development centres will benefit from the food programme," Masri said.

Created by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1963, the Rome-based WFP has been designed to stimulate economic and social development through food aid and to provide emergency relief.

FAO member governments make voluntary contributions of commodities, cash, and services to WFP which in turn uses the food to support economic and social development projects in developing nations and for emergency relief for victims of natural and man-made disasters.

Seminar reviews population situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Population Committee (NPC) Saturday opened a five-day seminar to review the population situation in the Kingdom, and birth, mortality and fertility rates as well as population migration.

Acting Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, who addressed the opening session, underlined Jordan's reliance on accurate data concerning population for development purposes and to benefit the policy-makers and planners in various fields.

"The formation of the NPC in Jordan was designed to serve as a liaison, coordinating efforts with various public and private organisations in matters related to population activities," he said.

"Population activity has a direct bearing on social services and the national economy as well as on the country's general development," the minister pointed out.

Upon its inception, the NPC was described as of paramount importance for the country's economic and social progress because it would adopt policies and programmes designed to promote the condition of people in rural and urban areas.

A representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is providing assistance to the NPC's programmes, said that data on population were of extreme importance for development since demographic changes are closely linked to economic and social changes.

Data about population, he said, are needed in such programmes as creating new schools and hospitals, opening roads and carrying out housing projects and the UNDP is helping Jordan in planning socio-economic development for the coming 20 years.

Representatives of government departments and organisations are taking part in the seminar which was organised in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday inaugurates a Jordanian-Chinese cultural week (Petra photo)

Jordanian-Chinese cultural week opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Chinese cultural week opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.

The Queen also met with members of Jordanian and Chinese folk troupes taking part in performances to be staged during the week and learnt about their activities.

The week-long activities include a seminar on Jordanian-Chinese relations, lectures by Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki and other prominent Chinese and Jordanian personalities as well as former ambassador to China. Among those present at the opening ceremony was Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, minister of education and higher education, Dr. Karaki and China's ambassador to Jordan as well as a large group of invited guests.

No organised group yet seen involved in downtown attack

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The suspect held in the May 21 assault on a group of French tourists in downtown Amman appears to have been prompted to carry out the attack by a "sense of personal revenge" for the massacre of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv the day before, a senior police source said Saturday.

"The suspect has a very clean record," said the source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "He has never been arrested or come under suspicion of any crime. Questioning of the suspect and investigations are continuing, and we have yet to come across any evidence which links him to any organised group," he added. "But we are keeping an open mind."

The suspect, Ahmad Tawfiq Badwan, 28, who was arrested without resistance immediately after the 9:30 a.m. attack in front of the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, is a resident of the Al Hussein refugee camp, where his family moved after fleeing its original home in a village near Ramallah in the West Bank during the 1967 war, according to the source.

Reports that Badwan was originally from the occupied Gaza Strip and one of his relatives was among the victims of the Israeli gunman on May 20 are unfounded, the source said. "He was shouting 'Gaza, Gaza' during the attack and people assumed that he was from Gaza," apparently because all of the victims of the Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv were Palestinian workers from the Strip seeking daytime labour in Israel.

Badwan, who is married with four children, is the fourth in a family of four brothers and three sisters. He used to run a grocery store in downtown Amman along with his father and brothers. "He admitted that he was prompted by a sense of personal revenge for the massacre of Palestinian workers," the police source told the Jordan Times. The suspect is still under police custody and has not been

produced in court.

Police reconstruction of the gun and knife attack, in which nine people were wounded, has found that Badwan was waiting for any tourist bus to come to downtown Amman, as it is usual for tour groups to start the day with a visit to the Roman Amphitheatre. "In all probability, he did not have any specific target in mind for the attack, let alone a group of French nationals," the source said. One theory advanced by some observers was that the fury of the assault was aimed at Westerners/Americans whose governments extend military, financial and political support for Israel and are seen as aiding the Jewish state's occupation of Arab territories and its often brutal actions against the Palestinian people there. However, most discount the possibility that the assailant knew his targets were French.

"Examinations have found that the suspect is a perfectly normal person and there is nothing to indicate he could have been mentally deranged," the police source told the Jordan Times.

According to the source, Badwan opened fire as soon as the distinct blue Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) came to a stop at the parking lot in front of the amphitheatre along with at least two other tour buses. Passengers and bystanders fled in panic, and the assailant chased some passengers into the bus.

The source dismissed some accounts of the attack which said that the assailant had followed the tourist bus from a museum atop the hill overlooking downtown Amman. The museum was the first stop of the tour group.

The source confirmed that the weapons used in the attack — an unlicensed Italian-made seven-millimetre Lama automatic and the knife — were seized by police, but could not or would not say whether police had any clues to the origins of the firearms.

Police have not been able to figure out how many bullets the gun originally contained (its magazine capacity is nine bullets), but "as soon as (the suspect) emptied the magazine he pulled out a knife and stabbed two people inside the bus in addition to seven others

wounded by gunfire," the source said. Eight of the wounded were French and the ninth was a Jordanian tour photographer working with Royal Tours, the travel agency in charge of the group of 35 French tourists.

Hospital sources said the wounds were mostly caused by "flying metal granules" which could have been disintegrated parts of the bullet after hitting the ground or any hard surface. Another theory was that the ammunition used could have been pellet-type bullets which burst into small pieces upon impact. This assertion led to speculation that the assailant could have been firing on the ground for maximum impact or he did not aim to cause serious injuries.

Neighbours described Badwan, holder of a five-year Jordanian passport, as "nothing out of the ordinary, regular man in the street."

"It is so strange that such a calm, gentlemanly person could have carried out the attack," said a neighbour, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

His Majesty King Hussein has described the attack as a possible reaction to "crimes by Israel against the innocent." However, the King emphasised that "such feelings of anger do not justify the occurrence of such an incident in Amman at all."

Almost all members of the Badwan family stay in the same neighbourhood of the Al Hussein camp, but none of them could be reached immediately for comment.

Most observers say that the attack appeared to be "an individual act" rather than linked to any group. No claim of responsibility was made either in Amman or in occupied Jerusalem as some reports had suggested, according to several people who kept a close tab on events related to the assault.

The police source could not say when the case would be referred to court for trial. "The suspect has confessed to having carried out the attack, but we have to have concrete evidence which will stand up in court," he said. "The process of inquiries and cross-checking of information is continuing and it is premature to say anything more."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shamsan Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by Dana Khreis and Lama Khreis at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Barbari at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of products of the Jordan University of Science and Technology engineering workshops displaying equipment used in scientific labs.

Committees begin work in the south

TAFILEH (Petra) — Committees set up by the government to carry out projects in the south of the country to help local inhabitants face the consequences of this year's drought embarked on their tasks Saturday in the Tafleeh and Maan governorates.

According to Tafleeh Governor Khalaf Maharmeh, JD 500,000 has been allocated for developmental projects and will be spent through the committees in the Tafleeh region.

He said construction of roads and retaining walls, maintenance of water springs and planting of trees would be among the first schemes to be implemented and expected to employ 300 workers.

Maan Governor Eid Qatarnah said the government-appointed committees there would open canals and drill artesian wells among the projects in the region.

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Gorbachev and change: Equation for the Arabs

SOVIET LEADER Mikhail Gorbachev went to his summit with President George Bush beset by several domestic and external problems. Far more serious to his stature as a leader of a crumbling empire is the mounting threats to his position within his own country by his own people. The election of maverick Boris Yeltsin as president of Russia is just one manifestation of Gorbachev's troubles. Leadership and time are running out for him to make a strong comeback. Most observers of the Soviet scene assert that the situation in Moscow is getting worse for Gorbachev with each passing day. All these developments are occurring while the rest of the world, especially the Western countries which have a vested interest in the Soviet leader's survival, are simply watching the unfolding of events in the Soviet Union with remarkable indifference. The Bush-Gorbachev summit is a living testimony of how the West is still trying to milk the Soviet leader dry by insisting on more and extra concessions on every conceivable issue separating the two superpowers. And the more Gorbachev gives in to the West's demands, the more his position in Moscow becomes vulnerable. Instead of applying more external pressure on the Soviet president, now is the time to show compassion and understanding to the very man who ushered in a new era across the entire face of the earth.

Meanwhile the situation in the Soviet Union poses some very difficult questions for the Arab World. As evidenced by the Gorbachev-Bush summit the Arab-Israeli conflict has not figured highly on the agenda of the two leaders. This makes the probabilities of another Israeli-Arab war increase, especially in view of the fact that a Middle Eastern war no longer poses a danger to escalate from a regional war into a global one. Gone are the days when Moscow used to threaten to retaliate with nuclear weapons should one of its allies in the Middle East become the subject of a nuclear attack by Israel. Thus the new ball game in the Middle East envisages leaving the Arab states and Israel on their own to extricate themselves from the scourge of war. And the more Gorbachev is left alone to his own devices, the more vulnerable also becomes the Arab position in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

True, the Arab leaders took heart from Gorbachev's letter to their summit conference in Baghdad last week. They must have also taken heart from the Soviet leader's statements regarding the Palestinian issue in Washington two days ago. Both of his balanced letter to the summit and his objective comments in the U.S. capital say much about the man and his policies worldwide and the Middle East. But it remains for the Arabs to understand the depth of his thinking and the changes taking place around him, and to put them to their best use in the service of Arab causes and the attainment of legitimate Palestinian rights. The world is changing fast around us, and we expect from our leaders to back their summit resolutions with immediate actions to get the best deal we can for our peoples and their aspirations.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ARABIC DAILY newspapers here were unanimous Saturday in condemning the United States for its open support for Israel at the United Nations.

Al Ra'i daily said that by resorting once again to the veto of a resolution calling for the despatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories, Washington has reiterated to the world community its real hostile intentions against the Arabs in general and the Palestinian people in particular. The veto at the Security Council served as a reward for the Israeli aggression for their black Sunday's massacre of Arab workers and for all the other atrocities committed against the Palestinian people, the paper said. The veto was not only a green light for the Israelis to carry on with their crimes but also manifested Washington's persistence in preventing the international community from providing protection to the Palestinian people in the face of the war of genocide being launched against them in their own homeland, the paper said. The United States has vetoed a resolution that would have appointed United Nations observers to be stationed in Palestine to monitor Israel's practices there, and has thus manifested itself as a real enemy for the Arab World and a superpower intent on imposing its hegemony on the Arab region with the help of the Israeli aggressors, the paper said. As if this was not enough, said the paper, the United States is urging the PLO to condemn all anti-Israeli activity in return for continuing the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis. It said Washington's behaviour is clearly aimed at aborting all attempts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday called on the Palestinians to end their dialogue with the United States which, he said, has proven to be more hostile to the Arab cause than the most extremist elements of the Zionist movement. Tareq Masarweh urged the Arab states to stop counting on the United States for any peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict because, he noted, Washington's role is obviously designed to abort every Arab attempt to stop the Israelis from pursuing their ambitious designs in the Arab region. The writer urged the Arabs, for at least one year, to stop accepting what is called Washington's role in the peace-making process, and to tell U.S. diplomats that their role is not positive and cannot contribute to promoting peace. Why should the Arab diplomats at the United Nations feel frustrated or shocked at Washington's behaviour at the Security Council when they already realise that the United States is an ally of Israeli backing all its practices and protecting it from international condemnation? asked Masarweh. Should the Arabs try to treat Washington differently at the diplomatic level, he added, they will soon discover that the United States, which is being manipulated by world Zionism, is not as important as they had imagined it to be.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Can Jordan repay its debts?

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE WORLD is not yet ready to write off, out right, the debts of the Third World owed to the advanced countries. But it inevitably is heading in that direction.

In theory and in practice too, the developing countries could not possibly repay their debts until they achieve a trade surplus in the international markets. That is when their exports to the developed countries exceed their imports. Only in such a case, the developing debtor country can generate hard currency to service their debts.

Such state of affairs is next to impossible. Poor countries need to import more than they can export, not only to secure the minimum basic needs of their peoples, but also because of their need to import machinery, and other capital goods required for development.

In other words, the mere write-off of all debts owed by the Third World countries

would not be the solution. The developing countries still need funding in foreign exchange to cover their ever-growing deficits. When the debt crisis erupted in 1982, total debts were around \$800 billion. After eight years, the debts rose to \$1,300 billion. Debts continued to accumulate due to capitalisation of interest and fresh loans. Jordan's external indebtedness in 1993 will definitely be higher than it was at the crisis point in 1988.

That is the overall world picture in general, but what about Jordan in particular? Jordanian officials say that we shall pay the interest during the coming five years, and resume repayment of principal and interest thereafter, when the economic adjustment programme would be implemented.

Such a statement may indicate good intentions and true willingness to honour the commitments. But the question remains valid: Is the Jordanian economy capable of making a

net transfer of wealth amounting to \$700 million a year of interest for five years, and \$1.4 billion a year later on? Is this feasible and practical?

Jordan's debt can be serviced in two cases: The first case is when Jordanian exports of goods and services exceed imports. The surplus can then be earmarked for net settlement. This assumption is not possible in the foreseen future. Our utmost efforts are aimed at the reduction of the deficit. The achievement of surpluses did not yet cross the minds of our economic planners. Not even as wishful thinking.

The second case is when creditors become willing to lend us every year more than the amounts payable to them. This is what happened so far in Latin America. It is equivalent to capitalisation of interest and the growth of indebtedness year after year. No net repayments were taking place.

International creditors are fully aware of this fact. That is

why they are ready to sell their debts at a deep discount in the secondary market of Third World debt. On average Latin American debts are selling at 30 cents to the dollar. Latin America can buy back its debt at one third of its contractual value, but even that is beyond their means. The Sudanese debt is reportedly selling at 98 per cent discount, i.e., at two cents for the dollar.

Of course some creditors may recover all or part of their debts but only at the expense of other creditors. This happens when a country borrows from the World Bank to pay Citibank. The creditors as a whole could not possibly get any net repayment.

The Third World is not only unable to pay back its present debt. It is also unable to pay the interest. As a matter of fact they are in need of fresh loans to maintain the minimum standard of living and finance investments.

Even when a debtor country

happens to have some dollars, the question of priority arises: Does debt servicing have priority on the scarce sources of foreign exchange over other needs such as investments and importation of basic commodities? The logical answer is no. Debts should not be serviced until more urgent needs are satisfied.

The only exception to this rule is the repayments to funds and institutions that continue to lend the country fresh funds in excess of their repayments. In effect there is no net reduction of debt. It is the exception that confirms the rule.

The talk about the debt redemption fund is no solution to the problem. The only real fund is the Treasury, which is in deficit. Deficit in the budget will decrease gradually during the adjustment programme, but it will not disappear completely. It does not help to argue that such fund will be fed from exceptional sources such

as the dollar deposits of Arab central banks. These deposits have to be repaid at their maturity. The Central Bank of Jordan did not even show these dollars among its assets. It treated the swapped deposits as contra accounts, to remain available for self-liquidation at the maturity date. On the other hand a dollar from exceptional or ordinary source is the same as long as it is under the disposal of the Treasury or the Central Bank, and can be put into any use. Such funds should not go to settle old debts except only when there are no other more urgent needs.

My conclusion is that the reform of the Jordanian economy, the strict austerity, and the requested Arab financial aid are not meant to serve the creditors' interests. They are meant for the best interest of the Jordanian people, its present steadfastness and future stability.

German unity splitting Bonn Social Democrats

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — German unity is splitting the Social Democrats (SPD), Bonn's main opposition party, and forcing them towards a political hour of truth that could undermine their hopes of unseating Chancellor Helmut Kohl this year.

Once supremely confident that unity would boost its vote, the SPD is now at odds with fellow Social Democrats in East Germany and deeply divided at home over how to mount a challenge to Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

The party does not know if it faces only West German elections in December, as scheduled, or all-German polls that would require a far different kind of campaign.

It is not sure its chosen candidate, Oskar Lafontaine, wants to run after barely surviving a knife attack last month and seeing many SPD members support the economic union Kohl's government has worked out with East Germany.

And it cannot predict whether Lafontaine's hopes of slowing down Kohl's headlong unity drive will seem statesmanlike or stinging when voters come to pass judgment on it.

"Everything could be totally different in three or four months' time," leading SPD strategist Peter Glotz complained May 22. "We can't depend on opinion polls."

The crunch comes on June 22 when the treaty merging the two economies comes before the Bundestag, the upper house of Bonn's parliament, for a last reading before taking effect on July 1.

Until recently, the SPD complained about the high cost of unity — a line sure to win votes in a purely West German campaign — without having to take responsibility because Kohl's coalition controlled both houses of parliament.

At the same time, the eastern SPD, junior partner in the CDU-led coalition in East Berlin, was demanding and winning concessions on economic union that would add to the overall amount Bonn will have to pay for unification.

"In East Germany, they represent the people who want to have more and here in West Germany they represent the people who want to give less," CDU Secretary General Volker Ruehe said. "That can't work in the long term."

The party was put on the spot on May 13, when a surprise victory in state elections in Lower



Helmut Kohl

Saxony produced an SPD majority in the Bundestag.

Kohl turned the victory into a dilemma by opting for early all-German elections, in which the CDU's clear pro-unity line in both East and West would probably have greater appeal.

The SPD could block the economic treaty, but only at the cost of being stigmatised as the party that opposed German dreams of unity.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Latest opinion polls say more than four-fifths of all Germans support unity despite the problems it will cause for both sides.

Coalition leaders are already criticising the SPD for even considering slowing down unification and the tone of their attacks presages a vicious election campaign if the party dares to use its new-found majority against the treaty.

"I'd like to see the SPD majority in the Bundestag that blocks the treaty and the path to German unity," Otto Lambsdorff, chairman of the Liberal Free Democrats, says tauntingly in interviews these days.

"There will be no problems, the treaty will be ratified..."

In a twist that only a process as complicated as German unity can produce, Lafontaine and his party have jumped far ahead in the latest opinion polls, possibly in reaction to the assassination attempt and the Lower Saxony victory.

But, like Glotz, German politicians are increasingly wary of the polls that used to give them fairly accurate read-outs of their once-stable electorate.

The SPD should know that best of all. Once so confident of unity's benefits that it made former Chancellor Willy Brandt its honorary chairman in both East and West, its support shrank from a landslide predicted in the opinion polls to only one-fifth of the vote in East Germany's general elections in March.

LETTERS

A grant not a loan

To the Editor:

IN THE "Jordan Times" of May 30, 1990, page 3, in the column "National News in Brief", a piece of news appeared about the approval by the Jordanian government of an Italian "loan" of U.S. \$1.6 million to finance shipment of Italian rice imported by Jordan.

I would like to state precisely that it is not a loan that Italy conceded to Jordan, but a grant of Italian rice for the amount of U.S. \$1.6 million which is part of the food aid programme of our government.

Franco de Courten
Ambassador of Italy

China — looking back in anger, waiting for new direction

By Guy Dhamore
Reuters

PEKING — In the year since China's 85-year-old leader Deng Xiaoping summoned the army to crush a popular movement for democracy, the Communist Party has consolidated its control more successfully than many expected.

But recent signs of disunity in the party's highest ranks coupled with industrial recession reflect a lack of political direction, diplomats and Chinese intellectuals said this week.

Stability is the party's official watchword and Chinese dissidents say it has been achieved, at least for the moment, at the price of intellectual and economic stagnation.

"The voice of the Chinese people is silent," said an elderly intellectual. "We are so angry. But we are waiting. There is no point in sacrificing more lives."

Three dissidents who dared to raise their voices against the government disappeared on May 31 shortly before they were to meet journalists to announce an open letter appealing for the release of political prisoners.

One of the three, pop singer Hou Dejian, was detained by police, a close friend said. He had no information on the other two, Zhou Duo and Gao Xin.

Senior Chinese officials have made it clear that no dissent will



Deng Xiaoping

be tolerated.

Security has been visibly stepped up as Peking approaches Monday's anniversary of last year's crackdown.

Many intellectuals believe the next impetus for change in China could come not from the people, who took to the streets in their millions a year ago, but from within the party or the armed forces. It may not be for the better.

"Will democracy come from within? There's a danger that

ultra-reactionary forces could take over first," commented a party member and democracy activist.

A recent swing back to reformist ideas in the economy and the release of 211 political prisoners last month could trigger a hard-line backlash, he said.

A creeping purge of the media, government ministries and the security forces has rewarded those loyal to the party and removed some, but not all, of its opponents, diplomats said.

Widespread passive resistance to official investigations has slowed the process of eliminating dissent.

A year ago, party veterans, with Deng embattled but seemingly in control, buried their differences and united in the face of a popular uprising. Already, however, diplomats say, the leadership is again fragmenting.

Deng, who seemed alert and relatively fit when last seen in May, is seen as the final guarantor of party unity.

While some people in Peking heard fireworks to celebrate his eventual death, many others fear the chaos it would unleash.

"There was Mao Tse-tung and then there was Deng. Nobody else has his stature," commented the elderly intellectual.

Last June, Deng sacrificed his protégé, reformist party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, who was

accused of splitting the party, and replaced him with Jiang Zemin, a Soviet-trained technocrat from Shanghai.

Premier Li Peng, who earned the wrath of student demonstrators by declaring martial law in Peking last year, and is the most youthful of the current top leadership at 62, kept his post.

"To maintain an appearance of unity the two men sign joint statements and often appear together in public; on June 1, they wore little white caps and red scarves to join pupils for international children's day of Tiananmen Square."

Politburo member Li Ruihuan, who is in charge of party propaganda, has emerged as a contender for power with Premier Li, a party source said.

The official media paints a careful picture of a tranquil Peking.

"Except for a few people occasionally strolling by, and tourists having pictures taken... Tiananmen Square is quiet," the official New China News Agency said.

"Our production is expanding, people's living standards are rising and the markets are flourishing. I should say people are content and satisfied," said China's 83-year-old President Yang Shangkun.

"Yes, it looks fine, doesn't it?" said a taxi driver. "But only on the surface."

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



No more blind eye towards children

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

A CHILD, the victim of brutal behaviour, is crying. "The neighbours could not manage to sleep, but they did manage to turn a blind eye," one reads, and at the bottom of the poster, "Thank you for not minding your own business." This slogan also appears on two other posters of a campaign aimed at breaking the silence which tolerates violence to minors. This is the appeal made to travellers on the Paris underground.

In the world, every day, 40,000 children die from disease or illness. Every year, 3.5 million children starve to death. 120 million children are abandoned by their families. 50 million are exploited at work or used in drug peddling, prostitution and sexual violence, or recruited to fight wars when the armies have killed off the men. 120 million children are deprived of all schooling.

Because minors suffer from all kinds of abuse, in all countries, in varying degrees, and because they are spared from none of the violations of Human Rights, the United Nations unanimously adopted the International Convention of Children's Rights, in November 1989.

To come into effect, the Convention had to be ratified by twenty countries. On Jan. 26, 1990, the representatives of sixty states, that is to say more than a third of the United Nations, signed the declaration. This keenness to promise to protect and defend children in civil, social, economic and cultural areas, gives hope.

In order to stress the importance France attributed to this, Edwige Avice, the minister delegate to Foreign Affairs, was asked to ratify a text which, even if it represents a compromise, can lead a number of countries to reconsider certain attitudes which are all too often justified by local ancestral traditions. Avice pointed out: "when women's rights make headway, children's rights do so too."

Obviously, everything is not going to change overnight, and all the more so, as UNICEF draws attention to the deterioration in the situation of children in the world. Its latest report stresses that 300 million children will be prone to avoidable diseases and malnutrition



Millions of abandoned, malnourished, and exploited children need guaranteed legal rights.

in the 90s. "There will be neither public outcry nor an appeal for aid. The world will barely notice their disappearance," the international organisation predicts.

In order to counteract this forecast, James Grant, director general of UNICEF, considering the convention, as a "fantastic legal framework to structure policy in favour of childhood," wants to "fill in this framework with a certain number of concrete principles and proposals." For this purpose, he has proposed a summit of heads of state for autumn 1990.

A reading of this same report makes it already possible to know what he is going to ask the leaders of all countries, rich and poor: "cut down on military spending to save millions of children from death." Indeed,

the cases of malnutrition could amount to 2.5 million a year, that is to say 2 per cent of the spending on weapons in developing countries or the price of five ultra-modern bombers.

But "the fight to save lives must go together with action to change the lives thus saved," Federico Mayor, director general of UNESCO, declares. That is why, in addition to "the inherent right to life," the convention guarantees minors the practice of fundamental liberties such as freedom of expression, religion, association and non-interference in their private lives, as well as the right "to be heard in any administrative or judicial procedure concerning them."

The latter point represents an acknowledgement of a child's right to personal defence in

justice. This is a right for which barristers such as Agnes Fichot have been fighting in France for long years. The mission of the association Media-Enfant, which she presides, is to inform the biggest public possible about this convention, and in priority children themselves.

In order to do this, Fichot has thought up a 15 minute cartoon called "Alice in Children's Rights Land," which clearly and attractively sums up the principles of the convention. English and Spanish versions are available. Profits from diffusing the film will make it possible, together with local authorities, public authorities and specialised organisations, to finance further action in favour of minors and particularly their defence in court — L'Actualité en France.

Arab grocers, Chicago blacks in conflict

By Sarah Nordgren

The Associated Press
CHICAGO — Tensions between blacks and the Arab immigrants who have set up shop on some of Chicago's meanest and poorest streets are festering anew in this midwestern city.

Those tensions have existed for years, but only reach a new low this spring when a Chicago grocer placed a sign in his window: "This store is being remodeled. No Arabs will be involved."

A black official representing the west side district was asked by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) to intervene, but declined. If that makes Arab-Americans angry, said Alderman William Henry, "that's too bad."

Henry later retreated, quietly asking the white owner of Buddy Bear's grocery to remove the sign. But 16 of the windows were smashed before the sign came down, about three weeks after it appeared.

Mayor Richard Daley declared the whole business a disgrace and ordered an investigation. Now a group of blacks and Arab-American shopkeepers meets regularly on the west side seeking ways to co-exist peacefully.

But no one believes the problem is near a solution. In the past 12 months alone:

— A black has sued an Arab-American grocer, alleging he was beaten and his nose broken by workers at the grocer's store during an argument.

— A group of black ministers on Chicago's south side has organised a "buy black" campaign. "We said don't get mad, get smart. Learn to control your own economy," said the Rev. Hiram Crawford.

Arab-Americans say they are doing a service for residents of impoverished, often dangerous, communities long abandoned by the supermarket chains.

"Arab grocers are in those black communities because all the big grocers have left," said Fadi Zanayed, head of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, which estimates as many as 1,000 small stores in the city are run by Arab-Americans.

The city's two largest food chains have 69 stores in predominantly white neighbourhoods but just nine in the largest black areas, according to a survey by the Chicago Reporter, a monthly that focuses on racial issues.

But residents complain the smaller shops charge higher prices for substandard, sometimes spoiled food and sell it under security so tight it makes customers feel they are under siege.

"They come in and board everything up like its a prison," said Crawford. "They make you stand in a small area. These (stores) are degrading the community."

Zanayed said higher prices are a function of the smaller quantities purchased at wholesale by the merchants and the high insurance premiums charged to stores in high-crime neighbourhoods.

Strict security is necessary, Arab-American merchants say. "On Saturday, I caught three people stealing in my store," said David Farhan, who runs a grocery and liquor store with his son, Billy.

The Farhans bought American Food and Liquors six months ago to a desolate strip in a neighbourhood of abandoned buildings and empty lots littered with debris.

While the problems the Farhans face are considerable, they say they have no regrets. "We have good relations with the people," Billy Farhan said. "We're satisfied."

So is Fred Mohammad, who beat a neighbourhood boycott 18 months ago to make a success of his Giant Foods.

Unlike the Farhans' store, Giant Foods is in a stable, black middle-class neighbourhood, but when Mohammad took over a store that had been abandoned for months, he met significant community resistance.

"They didn't want us here.... We were Arabs and they didn't want Arabs in the neighbourhood," he said.

He eventually agreed to employ blacks and to do his banking in the neighbourhood, and gradually, he said, things have improved.

"Everything they wanted, we were going to do anyway," he said. "I think I'm past the worst of it. There are feelings that linger."

"I was just upset that the whole thing started without them even knowing me," he said. "That my last name was Mohammad just seemed to ignite this animosity towards the store."

Mohammad's case may be an exception, however.

"The base issue is that as long as many of the stores in the ghetto are owned by outsiders... you're going to have that tension, frustration and anger," said Richard Taub, a University of Chicago social science professor who has studied small business development.

"Frustration runs on both sides. Store owners find it difficult to make a living in a poor community and sometimes act overzealous and obnoxious. On the other hand, groups that have to deal with them feel angry that it's outsiders that own the stores and they don't."

Cartoonist says society static in thirty years

By Rachel Powell
Reuters

CHICAGO — After 30 years of examining relationships in his bitingly funny and sometimes wistful cartoons, Jules Feiffer sees little change in the way people deal with each other.

"My work is about relationships from the (ages) 20s to the 100s. It's just the way they work. And they haven't changed a bit," Feiffer, 60, said in an interview with Reuters.

Feiffer's political and social cartoons have appeared in the New York weekly Village Voice since 1956, a position he originally accepted for no pay. Now his cartoons appear in 105 newspapers across the United States.

During his long career, his work has also appeared in Playboy magazine and in several cartoon books and films. He has also written plays and screenplays.

The Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist, who lives in New York,

was visiting Chicago to attend the premiere of his new play, "Elliot Loves," and to open a permanent show of his cartoons at a local gallery.

Relationships are the focus of the play, which will run off Broadway in New York from mid-June.

"The point of it was to illustrate, in the course of one evening, how the hardest thing anybody does in life is to co-exist successfully with one other person," Feiffer said.

"It's about the missed connections, the misunderstandings, the small things that drive you crazy about someone you love," he added.

A typical Feiffer cartoon features a single character — male or female, young or old — facing the viewer and examining their deepest insecurities and fears out loud.

Feiffer said his ideas often begin with a personal anecdote, but he tries to flesh out his experiences with his observations of

society at large.

"I'm part of the culture I'm in, and I don't try to isolate myself. I pick up vibrations," he said.

His cartoons frequently feature a leotard-clad dancer who expresses her feelings about everything from political apathy to the government's support for the arts. The dancer character, Feiffer said, is based on an ex-girlfriend.

"She was tall, beautiful, and awfully pretentious — and the first girlfriend I ever slept with in my own apartment. I was young and impressionable, and you don't lose that effect very easily," Feiffer said.

"The early dancer cartoons were a little pretentious," he admitted. "She would make these grandiose statements, and occasionally she still does. But in a curious way, the cartoons switched from being about my former girlfriend to being about me."

Feiffer said he has gone back to social cartooning after focusing

almost exclusively on politics during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

"I go back and forth. In the Reagan years, I focused on political subjects because the material was so rich. But since (President George) Bush came in, I'm doing more social, sexual stuff," he said.

"A lot is going on with Bush, but it's not nearly as provocative or interesting as it was in the Reagan years."

Feiffer considers his views "left of liberal" on the political spectrum, and takes pride in the fact that his political cartoons sometimes offend.

He was insulted when the Lyndon Johnson presidential library requested an original of a cartoon he drew about the former president.

"I was outraged because it seemed to me I was being ineffective. My Johnson cartoons were murderous. I basically viewed him as a war criminal," he said.

Student in charge in secret service lair

By Tom Porteus

BERLIN (WNL) — Six months ago it was the inner sanctum of one of the most efficient, ruthless and feared secret services in the world. Here, at the centre of a vast complex of anonymous buildings, the former East German minister for state security, Erich Mielke, kept watch over the population of the German Democratic Republic in the interest of a corrupt and aging Communist dictatorship. There were few corners of the country that Mielke's Stasi, as the secret police was called, could not penetrate with their surveillance devices and their informers.

Today from a large office at the Ministry for State Security, a lighthearted 23-year-old East German presides over the dismantling of Mielke's secret police. Mielke himself is in jail.

"It's mad," says David Gill, with a mischievous, intelligent smile. "Mad is the world one needs most to describe what's going on these days." Since last autumn East Germany's revolution has turned the country, and the lives of its people, upside down. Gill's story is just one of the more extraordinary examples.

On Jan. 15 Gill was watching the news on TV when the programme was interrupted to announce that thousands of angry citizens were storming the Stasi headquarters in East Berlin.

On an impulse, Gill made his way to the scene and quickly joined a group of citizens who were trying to restore order. The only way to satisfy the violent crowds was to set up, then and there, a "citizens' committee" to take control of the compound and to begin the task of dismantling the security apparatus.

"There was no time to think," remembers Gill. Demonstrators beat on revenge for years of repression had already broken into several buildings and were

busy tearing offices apart. Gill and a group of men and women showed through the disorganised crowds and took control of the compound from the now helpless Stasi officers.

During the first sleepless night after the headquarters had been cleared of demonstrators, the citizens' committee appointed special working groups to take charge of the different Stasi departments.

"After two days the question of a leader to coordinate everything arose," said Gill. "Someone proposed me, and, well, I just accepted." Since then Gill has been working up to 14 hours a day overseeing one of the most delicate tasks of post-revolutionary East Germany.

To help him in his work, he has been given a large office, one of the Stasi's fleet of 20,000 cars and a middle-aged, platinum-blond secretary who had previously worked for a Stasi general. Even so, the job, for which the state pays Gill a monthly salary of 800 East German marks (about US\$160), would daunt the most experienced administrator.

Nationwide the secret police employed 85,000 full-time staff plus an estimated 150,000 collaborators and informers, or 1 Stasi employee for every 65 members of the East German population. It had special sections for espionage and counterespionage and for surveillance of the army, the police and the Communist Party as well as dissident groups. There were also departments for intercepting mail and for tapping telephones and special liaison offices to coordinate activities with friendly secret services such as the Soviet KGB.

The Stasi had regional offices in every district of the country, a complete, self-contained telephone system, safehouses, video cameras on street corners, 100 kilometres (about 62 miles) of dossiers in the national headquarters alone and an annual budget

of 3.5 billion marks (about US\$6.8 million).

"They knew everything they wanted to know," said Gill. "It was a perfectly functioning army. Of course, it is not simple to dismantle it. For our citizens' committee the job is perhaps one number too big."

But in spite of his youth, Gill does not look in the least bit overwhelmed. The son of a priest, he was no stranger to the methods of the Stasi. Churchmen were prime political suspects of the old regime. Even in the out-of-the-way parish in the south of East Germany where Gill was brought up, the Gill family was the object of persistent surveillance. "We just lived with it," remembers Gill. "We couldn't imagine that it would ever be otherwise."

Gill was unable to get a place at a state high school because, coming from a religious family, he was politically suspect. Instead, he trained as a plumber before being admitted to an unofficial theological seminary a year and a half ago. At the outbreak of revolution last autumn, he plunged into opposition activities, founding a local citizens' movement in central East Berlin, where he shares a small apartment with a friend.

"For the first time, it became clear that we could do something to change the situation," he says of those exciting days. But as calls for immediate unification with West Germany grew more impatient and nationalistic and the political parties more divided and helpless, Gill became disillusioned with politics.

Now he has little time for reflection on the headlong rush toward Germany unity. He reckons that it will take until the summer for the citizens' committee to finish its job at the Stasi headquarters and hand over the follow-up work to a government agency. The files that remained intact after Stasi offices were ran-

sacked in December and again on Jan. 15 must be put in order, and inventories of Stasi equipment must be completed.

When a truckload of secret files arrives, unannounced, from some Stasi outpost in the provinces, Gill has to decide what to do with them. He also has to work with state committees to decide how to distribute Stasi buildings, vehicles and technical equipment to hospitals, the army, the interior ministry and so on.

"We are not an investigation authority," Gill insists. "We can only be the watchful eye of the people." But nonetheless, there are probably some in the spy business, both East and West, who are not enthusiastic about Gill's 90-member committee going through the dirtiest lines of East Germany's secret intelligence history.

Already Gill is aware that a number of former Stasi officers are now on the payroll of the West Germans Secret Service, while others have gone to the KGB with sensitive files. It's probable that some high-ranking officials are quite worried about keeping some Stasi information confined to secrecy, but it's a notion that Gill is not interested in discussing.

"In fact, we don't know that much," says Gill warily. (He has not even seen his own Stasi dossier). "But there may be those who think we know more than we do." If this is the case, it could be hard for the intelligent and energetic young theology student to extricate himself from the secret world into which he was so unexpectedly propelled by the revolution.

"I hope I will be able to make a clean break with all this when I take up by theology studies again next September," he says quietly but firmly. "And when I am through with my studies, I will go into a parish and become a priest."

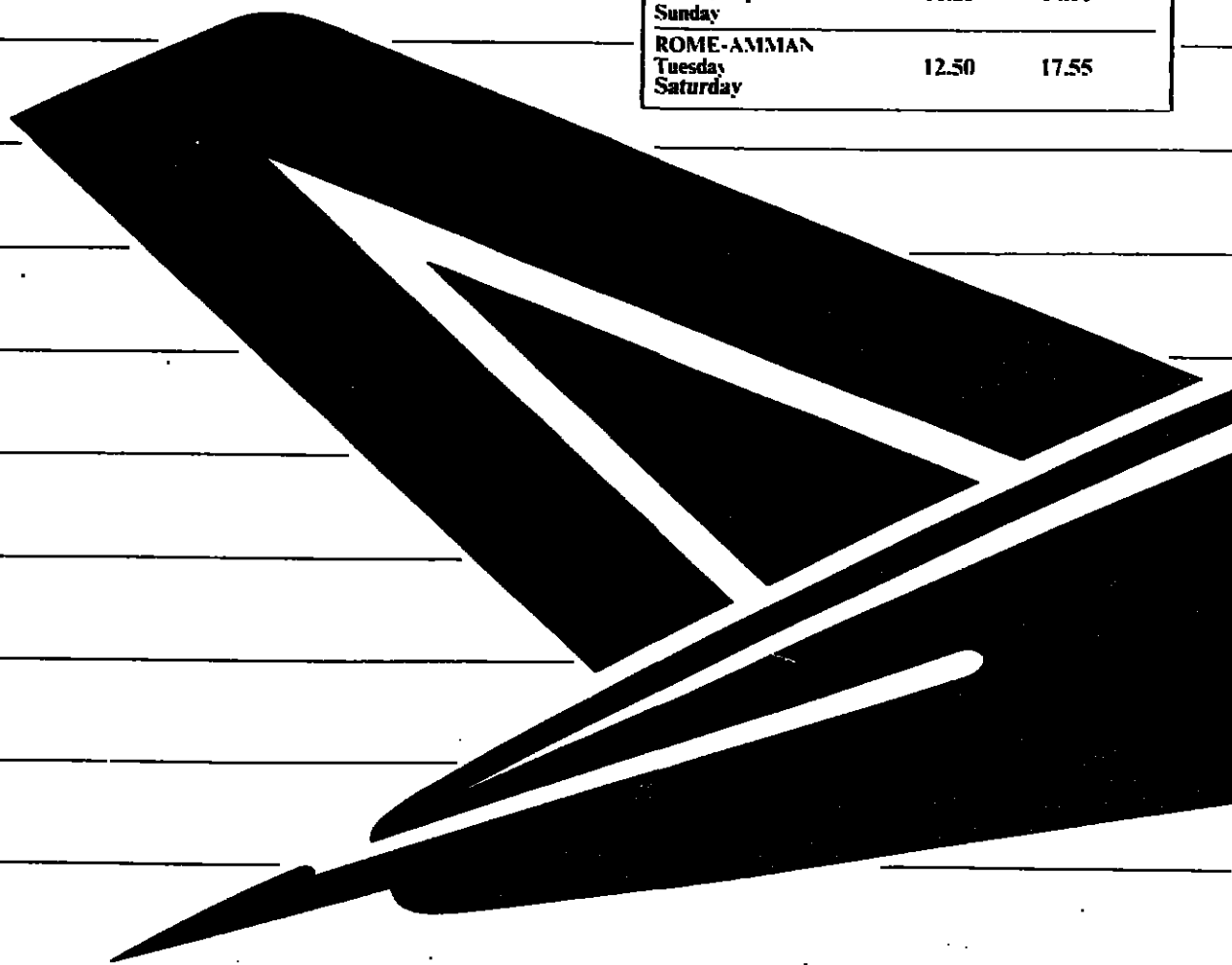
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Mort d'un ministre

Le ministre de l'Éducation, M. Hamdan, a annoncé mardi dernier la prochaine suppression du ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur (MES). Les prérogatives de ce dernier, ainsi que ses fonctionnaires, seront réparties entre le ministère de l'Éducation et les universités. M. Hamdan n'a pas évoqué les raisons d'une telle décision, mais on laisse entendre qu'elles sont d'ordre financier.

Le jeune ministre n'a que cinq ans. Créé en juillet 1985, il avait été chargé de veiller au bon fonctionnement des établissements post-secondaire (collèges, instituts et universités), de coordonner leurs activités, de définir les normes d'enseignement ainsi que de l'octroi des équivalences aux diplômes étrangers. On lui avait adjoint récemment une autre responsabilité: la formation universitaire des enseignants, étape indispensable pour le développement global du système scolaire dans le pays.

Je me souviens encore combien les "collèges" dits de "la communauté" vivaient dans l'anarchie pédagogique et organisationnelle avant la création du MES. J'ai été véritablement choqué en apprenant la nouvelle de sa suppression. D'autant plus que, deux semaines auparavant, le Forum de la Pensée Arabe, basé à Amman, a organisé un colloque sur "les moyens de développer l'enseignement supérieur dans les pays arabes au cours du siècle prochain". Le fossé entre la parole et l'action serait-il devenu si court dans la vie arabe?

Quelle que soit la justification de la décision gouvernementale, cette dernière va tout droit à l'encontre des conceptions, voire de la théorie, défendues à maintes occasions par les responsables. On nous disait, il y a encore quelques années, que la Jordanie n'a pas beaucoup de richesses naturelles et que l'homme jordanien "vaut" plus, une fois formé et entraîné. Un ancien ministre et pédagogue l'a même écrit noir sur blanc en 1984: «la main d'œuvre éduquée et entraînée est "l'industrie" N. 1 de la Jordanie». On voulait à l'époque "exporter" cette richesse. Les chiffres élevés des rentrées en devises étrangères, envoyées par les expatriés dans le Golfe et ailleurs, fournissaient une preuve éloquente de l'efficacité de cette "théorie".

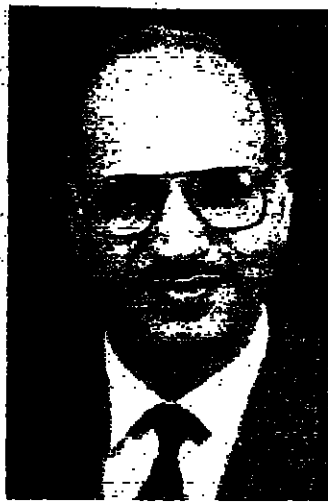
Le raisonnement était simple: d'un côté, un taux de natalité soutenu (4%) que l'économie jordanienne, par l'écroulement de son marché, ne saurait jamais absorber comme main d'œuvre; de l'autre, les pays du Golfe, en quête d'employés qualifiés, qui en retour peuvent envoyer régulièrement des économies au pays, qui en a besoin pour équilibrer sa balance commerciale.

Bref, on considérait alors l'enseignement comme un investissement prometteur. D'où le souci de l'améliorer et de mieux contrôler ses résultats. Certaines forces politiques s'élevaient certes contre la création du ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, y voyant à l'époque un moyen de centralisation de la répression à l'encontre des étudiants et des professeurs d'universités.

Pour être ces forces avaient-elles raison de s'inquiéter dans le contexte d'avant les émeutes d'avril 1989. Mais aujourd'hui, à la lumière des nouveaux acquis démocratiques, on ne peut que regretter la disparition du MES. Nous y voyons même une erreur très grave, qui risque d'avoir des conséquences négatives sur l'ensemble du secteur éducatif national.

En effet, l'enseignement supérieur concerne environ cent mille étudiants et collégiens, sans compter les établissements de formation des professeurs. Le système éducatif tout entier touche par ailleurs la vie de plus de la moitié des Jordaniens. Son importance devient même encore plus grande, quand on considère le taux croissant du chômage, notamment parmi les jeunes diplômés. Et ce, même si la "théorie" semi-officielle s'avère compromise.

Le lendemain de la triste nouvelle, nous avons appris que huit jeunes scientifiques jordaniens sur treize candidats avaient décroché des prix aux concours des jeunes scientifiques arabes, organisés par la Fondation Abdul Hamid Shoman. L'effort consacré à l'enseignement y est évidemment pour quelque chose. N'y avait-il donc pas d'autre moyen, pour réduire les dépenses, que de supprimer le MES?



"La Terre Va-t-Elle Cesser de Tourner?", d'Haroun Tazieff

Le pamphlet d'un écologiste en colère

Ses compétences scientifiques et ses campagnes en faveur de l'écologie l'ont rendu célèbre dans le monde entier. Fidèle à ses convictions, le vulcanologue Haroun Tazieff

vient de signer un pamphlet sans complaisance sur les "terreurs de l'an 2000". Un livre polémique sur la mort de notre environnement, qui n'épargne personne.

Le nez écrasé du boxeur qu'il fut dans les années 1950, les épaules de rugbyman qu'il est encore à 75 ans, le vulcanologue Haroun Tazieff demeure un ardent défenseur de la Nature. Une nature, qu'il voit, la rage au cœur, se dégrader chaque jour davantage.

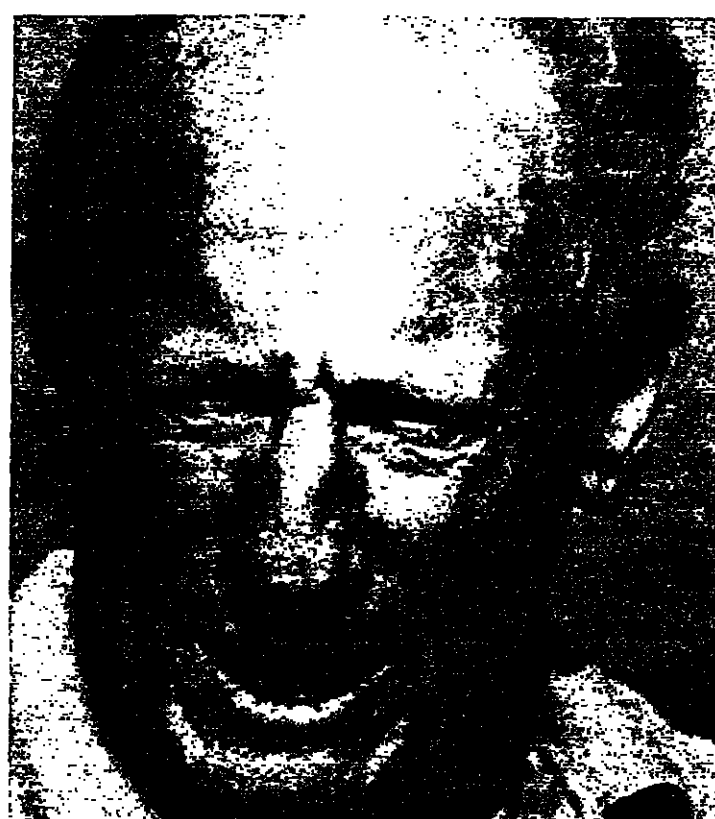
Né à Varsovie d'un père descendant de notables Kirghize, ce chercheur passionné faisait dévaler les trains sous l'occupation nazie. Aujourd'hui, ce scientifique de renommée mondiale n'a plus qu'une préoccupation: empêcher, si faire se peut, le massacre écologique de la planète Terre.

C'est dans le cadre de ce combat qu'il vient de publier un pamphlet consacré aux "terreurs de l'an 2000", sous le titre "La Terre Va-t-Elle Cesser de Tourner?" (A). "Garouk", comme l'appellent ses amis, y crie sa colère et y montre d'un doigt sans complaisance les "politiciens, arrivistes et pusillanimes, industriels uniquement préoccupés par l'appât du gain, fonctionnaires incompétents" qui, selon lui, conduisent le globe à sa perte.

«Depuis quarante ans, écrit-il, je tente de protéger la nature. J'ai même fait le coup de poing pour sa défense dans une manifestation d'écologistes (...). J'ai aussi acquis le savoir que m'ont donné l'Institut agronomique, l'École de géologie et l'expérience du gouvernement (Haroun Tazieff a été sous-secrétaire d'Etat aux risques majeurs de 1981 à 1986)».

Le pouvoir politique inefficace

Ce chercheur polémiste ne croit pas que le pouvoir politique soit jamais capable de résoudre les problèmes d'environnement. «Trop d'intérêts sont en jeu. Seul un chef de gouvernement convaincu de l'urgence d'une politique sérieuse (et jamais je n'en ai encore rencontré, ni entendu dire



Haroun Tazieff: réaliste ou pessimiste?

qu'il en existât) pourrait la conduire (...). Une protection efficace de la nature doit être décidée localement, par ceux qui sont directement concernés», poursuit le vulcanologue. Tazieff s'en prend également aux «mafias de toute nature, qui règnent sur nos institutions». Il stigmatise les «intrusions tonitruantes de politiciens et de mandarins universitaires dans l'écologie pour promouvoir leur arrivisme».

Les "écologues", ses anciens compagnons de lutte, ne trouvent pas plus grâce à ses yeux, depuis qu'ils forment le parti des "Verts": «Ils nous cassent les oreilles, lâche Tazieff, avec de prétendues catastrophes, qui ne ressortissent que de leur ignorance et de leurs rêveries passées».

Souvent, ces Don Quichotte, ignorants du réel, exagèrent les risques ou en inventent d'imaginaires pour atteindre leurs objectifs».

Tazieff n'a pas la dent moins dure à l'encontre des grandes organisations internationales. Ainsi de l'ONU elle-même, qu'il qualifie de «grande brigue» ou encore de «panier de crabes». Il reproche notamment aux Nations Unies leur «inefficacité, le gaspillage des deniers publics (...), conséquence du parasitisme des uns, de l'arrivisme et de la corruption des autres».

Le vulcanologue émet encore, avec une tranquille assurance, des avis qui détonnent dans le concert à la mode des pleureuses. Avec des arguments

d'homme de science et en proposant des solutions, inspirées par le savoir et l'expérience. Au nombre des idées fausses (délibérément entretenues, soutient-il), Tazieff range la menace que représenteraient les centrales nucléaires. A ses yeux, point de risque en France, en tout cas. «En quarante ans d'activités, remarque-t-il, il ne s'est pas produit d'accident mortel dû au nucléaire».

Arguments plus économiques qu'écologiques

L'auteur va même plus loin: à l'en croire, l'accident qui s'est produit à Seveso, dans la banlieue industrielle de Milan, en 1976, fut une «catastrophe imaginaire». Cet «Hiroshima de la chimie», comme l'avaient alors baptisé certains médias, n'a tué personne. Tout au plus, l'émission de gaz a-t-elle provoqué des réactions cutanées rapidement guéries. A l'époque, le sous-secrétaire d'Etat s'était efforcé de faire entendre cette autre vérité: «Sans succès. On avait créé un monstre aussi imaginaire que les soupçons volants».

Autre grande polémique: le trou dans la couche d'ozone. Pour Tazieff, il s'agit surtout d'un «phénomène naturel et l'ozone se reconstitue à mesure qu'il se détruit». Il suspecte de plus ceux qui accusent les chlorofluorocarbones (CFC) d'avoir des arrière-pensées «plus économiques ou politiques qu'écologiques».

L'effet de serre? «Pour autant qu'il existe, je ne le crois pas redoutable. Il n'est pas démontré que la température globale croisse de façon significative. L'augmentation de la teneur de l'atmosphère en CO2 (dioxyde de carbone) ne peut, contrairement à ce que certains prétendent, réchauffer le sol de façon sensible».

Quelles sont alors les véritables menaces qui pèsent sur la planète? «Le massacre de la biosphère, cette mince couche d'air et de terre qui permet la vie. Par la pollution de l'air, des sols, des eaux douces et amères. Par l'invasion des déchets, dont on ne sait plus que faire. Par le bruit, ce fléau social», répond-il. Le scientifique y ajoute les incendies de forêts (44.000 hectares détruits en France en 1989) et les risques de séismes, contre lesquels l'Europe, en général, est mal protégée.

Est-ce à dire qu'Haroun Tazieff est pessimiste quant à l'avenir de la Terre? Plutôt réaliste, affirme-t-il. Et confiant malgré tout. «L'histoire démontre qu'à toute décadence, si elle n'atteint pas un seuil létal, succède une régénération. Notre société étant menacée, il faut que tous ceux qui s'en affligent s'efforcent de faire virer de bord notre colossal navire, avant qu'il ne s'écrase sur les rochers».

Pierre-Albert Lambert.

(*) Editions Seghers, Paris.

EN BREF

Visite. Le secrétaire au Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd, a quitté Amman vendredi, au terme d'une visite officielle de trois jours en Jordanie. Le ministre britannique des Affaires étrangères, qui s'est entretenu avec le roi Hussein, a notamment réaffirmé jeudi la position de Londres en faveur d'un dialogue entre Israël et des représentants palestiniens comme prélude à la tenue d'une conférence internationale de paix sur le Proche-Orient. Douglas Hurd doit achever aujourd'hui à Ryad un séjour de 72 heures en Arabie Saoudite, deuxième et dernière étape de sa tournée dans la région.

Jordanie-URSS. Le prince Hassan a reçu mardi à Amman une délégation militaire soviétique, dirigée par le général Anatoli Klemenov, chef d'Etat-major adjoint de l'Armée Rouge. L'entretien a notamment porté sur la tension au Proche-Orient et sur les inquiétudes arabes à l'égard des changements politiques en Europe. La délégation soviétique a quitté Amman pour Moscou dès la fin de la rencontre, après un séjour d'une semaine en Jordanie.

Aide. L'Irak a décidé cette semaine d'octroyer une aide de 50 millions de dollars à la Jordanie pour 1990. L'annonce, vendredi, de ce soutien financier est intervenue au lendemain de la résolution du sommet arabe extraordinaire de Bagdad, soulignant l'engagement des pays participants à «renforcer la résistance de la Jordanie et ses capacités (...).» Amman a déjà reçu une enveloppe de 20 millions de dollars de la part des Emirats dans le cadre de l'assistance arabe au royaume hachémite pour cette année. Selon les autorités jordaniennes, Bagdad examinerait déjà l'octroi d'une nouvelle aide financière pour 1991.

CCA. Le prochain sommet du Conseil de coopération arabe (Jordanie, Egypte, Irak et Yémen) se tiendra en octobre à Bagdad, a annoncé mardi le secrétaire général du CCA, Holmi Nammar. Cette réunion, la cinquième depuis la création du Conseil en février 1988, sera la première à accueillir la nouvelle République yéménite proclamée le 22 mai. La fusion entre les deux Etats yéménites a été officiellement avalisée par le CCA, a d'ailleurs précisé Holmi Nammar.

Veto. Les Etats-Unis ont opposé jeudi leur veto à une résolution du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU favorable à l'envoi d'une mission d'enquête, composée de trois de ses membres, dans les territoires occupés. Cette résolution avait pourtant recueilli 14 voix, dont celles de la France, de la Chine, de la Grande-Bretagne et de l'URSS, qui eux aussi possèdent un droit de veto au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies.

Arafat. Le chef de l'OLP a nié jeudi soir à Bagdad toute relation entre la centrale palestinienne et le groupe responsable du raid de mercredi sur la côte israélienne. «Nous ne sommes pas responsables de cette opération», a affirmé Yasser Arafat, en se refusant cependant à condamner cette action au cours de laquelle quatre Palestiniens ont été tués et douze autres faits prisonniers par l'armée israélienne. Le secrétaire au Foreign Office avait appelé l'OLP le même jour depuis Amman à «se dissocier» de cette tentative de débarquement, qui, a-t-il dit, pourrait causer «des dommages substantiels à la cause palestinienne (...).»

Annulation. Benazir Bhutto a annulé jeudi la tournée qu'elle devait entamer hier dans six pays du Golfe, en raison de la «situation intérieure» de son pays. Le premier ministre pakistanais a en effet décidé de rester à Karachi, où de graves violences ethniques ont fait quelque 250 morts ces derniers jours.

Voyage. Le premier ministre britannique se rendra en visite officielle en URSS du 7 au 10 juin, a annoncé Londres jeudi. Margaret Thatcher rencontrera Mikhail Gorbatchev dès le lendemain de son arrivée, quelques jours après la fin du sommet américano-soviétique et au moment même où se réunira dans la capitale soviétique le Comité consultatif des pays membres du Pacte de Varsovie.

Déception. Le gouvernement roumain a exprimé jeudi sa «grande déception» après les critiques formulées par Washington sur le déroulement des élections générales et présidentielles dans ce pays le 20 mai dernier. Un porte-parole du ministère roumain des Affaires étrangères les a qualifiées d'«injustes et incorrectes envers le peuple roumain». Les Etats-Unis avaient affirmé le 26 mai que de «sérieuses distorsions et irrégularités ont marqué le processus électoral, qui a favorisé de manière injuste le Front de salut national (FSN, plus de 65% des voix)».

Gabon. Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, a confirmé vendredi que le dispositif militaire français au Gabon «allait être allégé» et que les «militaires (quelque 500 hommes) allaient regagner leurs bases». Cette décision fait suite au retour du calme dans ce pays africain, après les violentes émeutes de la semaine dernière.

Salmonellos. Entre 50 et 100 personnes ont été intoxiquées à Belfort (est de la France) par des gâteaux contaminés par la salmonelle a indiqué jeudi l'hôpital de la ville. 24 malades, dont 20 enfants, ont dû être hospitalisés, certains d'entre eux se trouvant dans un état «sérieux», selon le chef du service médical d'urgence de Belfort.

Vitesse. La France a décidé jeudi d'investir 530 millions de francs (93 millions de dollars) dans la recherche et le développement du «Train à grande vitesse (TGV) du futur», capable de parcourir en temps normal 1000 kilomètres en trois heures. L'objectif de ce programme est de mettre au point avec la société nationale des chemins de fer français un train qui devra atteindre une vitesse commerciale supérieure à 330 km/h, tout en étant doté d'un confort et d'une sécurité encore supérieurs à ceux du TGV actuel.

Jeune ballet de France au RCC

Une grâce toute exceptionnelle

Le Jeune Ballet de France, qui rassemble de jeunes danseurs âgés de 16 à 20 ans, s'est produit pour la première fois au RCC jeudi soir. Un spectacle de danse et sur la danse d'un niveau professionnel.

Le temps d'une seconde, on pressait un peu le pas en entrant, jeudi soir, dans la grande salle du Centre culturel royal (RCC), de crainte que le spectacle ne soit commencé. Mais non, sur scène, on répétait simplement pour s'échauffer.

Sous le haut patronage de SAR la Princesse Majda et au profit de l'Occupational Therapy College, le Centre culturel français accueillait à Amman le Jeune Ballet de France, une compagnie très particulière qui naît et meurt chaque année. Pendant cette période, de jeunes danseurs de 16 à 20 ans sont engagés pour monter, sous la direction du maître de ballet Jean-Claude Clappara, un spectacle qu'ils présenteront lors d'une grande tournée. Une tournée, qui

permet à ces futures étoiles de faire leurs premières armes sur les scènes de France et des capitales étrangères.

Si Robert Berthier, heureux initiateur de cette formule, nous dit que la danse appartient à tout le monde et qu'elle n'est pas l'affaire de professionnels, le cours de danse qui se déroule si naturellement sous nos yeux à l'ouverture du spectacle nous rappelle que le danseur professionnel est un éternel apprenti, qui inlassablement devra reprendre le mouvement jusqu'à ce que la plus grande difficulté technique soit exécutée sans l'apparence du moindre effort.

Seize jeunes artistes ont présenté trois siècles de danse, évoquant l'évolution de cet art

depuis les règles figées du ballet du XVIIIème siècle jusqu'au mouvement libéré du ballet contemporain. Des études de rythme sur le son déclinant du métro-nome jusqu'aux joies populaires des danses folkloriques; nous avons pu apprécier la fraîcheur et la grâce toute exceptionnelle de ces jeunes danseurs. Un vigoureux et élégant corsaire sur une musique de Drigo; la légèreté d'un cygne noir aux sons de Tchaikowski; ou encore le Pas de Deux et variations de Flammes de Paris ont souvent réussi à nous faire oublier que ces professionnels étaient encore parfois des adolescents.

La deuxième partie, résolument contemporaine, a soutenu, par la qualité de ses chorégraphies et de leur exécution, le niveau de ce spectacle.

Bernard Mahrouf.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Sommet extraordinaire de Bagdad

Pari gagné, succès mitigé

Le sommet arabe extraordinaire de Bagdad, qui s'est achevé mercredi, constitue un succès réel pour l'Irak, auquel les chefs d'Etat participants ont

renouvelé leur solidarité. Un succès mitigé cependant, tant les décisions finales sont restées souvent en-deça de propositions concrètes d'action.

Critiqué depuis de nombreuses semaines par plusieurs pays occidentaux, qui lui prêtent des intentions bellicistes, l'Irak peut s'estimer satisfait du sommet extraordinaire de Bagdad, qui s'est achevé mercredi, à l'issue de trois jours de débats. Une satisfaction cependant mitigée par l'absence de résolution concrète. Le sommet n'a en effet débouché que sur

le rappel de principes, alors que certains, comme le président Saddam Hussein mais aussi Yasser Arafat, attendaient des prises de position actives. Certes la déclaration finale du sommet contient de sévères critiques à l'encontre des Etats-Unis. Mais, même si les chefs d'Etat arabes présents à Bagdad ont fait la promesse d'un soutien «actif»

aux pays dont «la sécurité nationale est menacée», les résolutions finales de mercredi sont restées en-deça de certaines propositions concrètes formulées au cours des débats. Ainsi de deux suggestions défendues avec vigueur par Yasser Arafat. Le président du Conseil exécutif de l'OLP (CEOLP) a notamment proposé la création d'un «conseil de sécurité» national arabe et la convocation, dans un délai maximum d'un mois, du Conseil de défense arabe, dont la disposition principale stipule que toute agression contre un seul Etat est considérée comme dirigée contre tous les pays membres de la Ligue arabe. Ni l'une ni l'autre n'ont été adoptées.

De son côté, le président Saddam Hussein n'a pas recueilli l'approbation générale escomptée quand il a demandé au sommet de proclamer «une même voix» que les Arabes riposteraient à tout «agression» israélienne. Les participants aux débats se sont contentés de déclarer que Bagdad avait le droit de «répondre à l'agression par tous les moyens qu'il estime nécessaires» et de prendre «toutes les mesures nécessaires pour garantir et défendre sa sécurité nationale (...), y compris [par] l'acquisition des moyens scientifiques et technologiques avancés».

Plus prolixes et plus fermes Les chefs d'Etat arabes se sont montrés plus prolixes sur l'autre grand dossier à l'ordre du jour du sommet de Bagdad, à savoir les conséquences de l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël. Leur droit à l'émigration n'a pas été remis en cause, mais leur éventuelle installation à Gaza, en Cisjordanie occupée et même à Jérusalem a été qualifiée de «dangereuse». Quant au statut de ces territoires, les pays arabes ont rappelé qu'il ne pouvait être défini que dans le cadre de négociations de paix et non de façon unilatérale, comme prétend le faire Yitzhak Shamir.

C'est pourquoi le sommet de Bagdad a demandé la constitution d'un organisme international chargé de révéler, si besoin est, la présence de nouveaux immigrants dans les territoires occupés ainsi que l'arrêt de «toute aide ou prêt» à Israël, qui serait destiné à la création de nouvelles colonies. Si le soutien multiforme promis mercredi à la population palestinienne de «l'intérieur» consiste essentiellement dans la réaffirmation des décisions des sommets d'Alger (juin 1988) et de Casablanca (mai 1989), de nombreux observateurs ont relevé cette semaine que les pays arabes ont durci le ton, en accusant notamment les Etats-Unis d'encourager Israël à refuser tout processus de paix.

Les Américains ont d'ailleurs vivement réagi à ces déclarations. Washington les a qualifiées de «réthorique incendiaire» jeudi, en estimant qu'elles ne sauraient «apaiser la tension dans la région, endiguer la prolifération d'armes offensives» ou encore «soutenir les droits légitimes des Palestiniens».

Le changement de ton des Etats arabes s'explique sans nul doute par l'impasse totale dans laquelle se retrouve aujourd'hui le processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Et les résolutions finales du sommet de Bagdad en rejettent la responsabilité essentielle sur les Etats-Unis, puissance qui fournit à Israël «l'intransigeance», les «moyens militaires, les aides financières et la couverture politique», sans lesquels l'Etat hébreu ne pourrait pas «défier avec autant d'arrogance la volonté de la communauté internationale».

Cette colère a été particulièrement illustrée par une sortie choc du numéro un libyen, en séance de clôture. Le colonel Qaddafi a en effet lâché que la Palestine sera le cimetière des juifs, avant d'ajouter que «la force avec laquelle [les Israéliens] menacent les Arabes est artificielle. Nous allons les battre par tous les moyens et les liquider».

Pratiquement au même moment, plusieurs commandos palestiniens, appartenant semble-t-il au FLP d'Abou Abbas, membre de l'OLP, tentaient de débarquer sur les plages israéliennes. Pressé de questions, Yasser Arafat s'est borné à répondre que l'OLP n'avait aucune relation avec cette opération. (D'après agences.)

République yéménite

L'unité à marche forcée

En moins de six mois, les Yémen du Nord et du Sud, aux systèmes politiques antagonistes, ont réalisé leur unité, brûlant les étapes pour mettre leurs adversaires devant le fait accompli.

La République yéménite est née le 22 mai. Deux jours plus tard, le nouvel Etat, dont le président est le colonel Ali Abdallah Saleh, ancien numéro un nord-yéménite, s'est doté d'un gouvernement. Trente huit ministres, appartenant majoritairement aux cabinets des deux pays de l'union. Cette semaine, le Conseil de coopération arabe lui a donné l'un de ses premiers signes de reconnaissance internationale, en l'invitant en qualité de membre à part entière au prochain sommet des «Quatre», en octobre à Bagdad.

Cette marche à l'unité entre un pays d'inspiration marxiste (le sud) et un autre, d'inspiration islamique, a pris en fait l'allure d'une véritable course contre la montre. En annonçant le 12 mai l'évacuation des forces armées de Sanaa et d'Aden «pour faire échouer toute tentative, directe ou indirecte, d'un quelconque complot susceptible de provoquer une catastrophe», le colonel Saleh avait lui-même une indication sur la réalité d'une telle menace. Peu avant, Ali Salem al-Beid, secrétaire général du Parti socialiste yéménite (alors au pouvoir à Aden) et désormais vice-président de la République, avait dénoncé «des forces obscurantistes qui cherchent à semer le doute autour du projet constitutionnel pour entraver le processus de l'unité».

Il est vrai que ces «forces» existent. Deux nébuleuses s'opposent en effet à cette proclamation, ou tout du moins à la constitution du nouvel Etat: certaines tribus sédentaires du Yémen et les courants islamistes radicaux. Les premières s'étaient déjà montrées hostiles au précédent accord d'unification, signé à Tripoli en 1972. Les chefs de tribus pro-saoudiennes se disaient alors déjà contre toute collaboration avec le régime «athée» d'Aden.

Le 21 mai, cheikh ben Hussein al-Hamari, qui dirige la puissante fédération tribale des Hached, sans l'appui de laquelle aucun gouvernement ne peut perdurer au Yémen, a réaffirmé que la «stricte observance de la sharia véritable» doit présider au devenir de la République. Or, la nouvelle constitution ne se réfère à cette dernière que comme source «principale» et «non exclusive» de législation. Le courant islamiste, également représenté par les Frères musulmans et quelques extrémistes chiites, fait figure de grand perdant dans la concrétisation de l'unité des deux Yémen. Le nouvel Etat et son jeune gouvernement ne lui ont, en effet, guère fait de concessions.

Ces deux oppositions obligeront cependant le nouveau pouvoir à la prudence. D'autant que l'union intervient un peu plus de 10 ans seulement après le dernier affrontement entre deux pays aux régimes antinomiques. L'ancien Yémen du Sud, indépendant depuis 1967, a revendiqué pendant plus de 20 ans une orientation laïque et marxiste intransigeante, bésitant entre les influences soviétique et chinoise. Aden n'a de fait rétabli ses relations diplomatiques avec les Etats-Unis qu'au cours de ces dernières semaines.

L'ancien Yémen du Nord est, lui, une République islamique. La polygamie est amplement répandue, alors qu'elle est prohibée au sud. Le statut des femmes risque d'ailleurs de poser problème. A Aden, elles ont manifesté par centaines en mars dernier, de peur de voir disparaître dans le nouvel Etat le code qui leur octroie un statut personnel. A Sanaa, ces manifestations ont «horifié» le courant islamiste, qui en a tiré un nouvel argument contre la récente constitution. (D'après agences.)

Francophone

Licencié en littérature française cherche emploi d'enseignant ou de traducteur (arabe-français; français-arabe) à Amman. Pour tout contact, Tél: 790 463 (après 17h00).

A L'AFFICHE

A la redécouverte des musées

A propos d'un trou dans la tête

Le docteur Dieter Herles, membre du "Museumspädagogischen Zentrum" est actuellement en Jordanie, invité par l'Institut Goethe pour une série de conférences sur la pédagogie des musées. Le centre de Munich, où il travaille, fonctionne comme un centre d'information et de conseil pour les musées d'Allemagne.

Le Jourdain: Qu'est-ce que la pédagogie des musées? Dieter Herles: des techniques d'expositions, qui ont pour but de rendre ces dernières plus vivantes pour le grand public, jeunes, enseignants, parents, ou pour quiconque y passe un après-midi.

L.J.: Quels sont ces moyens? D.H.: Ils sont multiples. Visuels, mécaniques... Le choix de l'animation dépendra de l'exposition.

L.J.: Pouvez-vous nous donner un exemple jordanien, puisque vous avez visité les musées d'Amman et d'Irbid? D.H.: Prenons celui d'un crâne, que j'ai vu au musée archéologique d'Amman. Au premier coup d'œil, il n'évoque pas grand chose. L'inscription annonce: tête de mort; trou dans le crâne; opération chirurgicale et la date. Ça n'inspire rien. Or cette tête est la clé d'une époque. L'opération qu'elle a subie en fait le sujet d'un drame culturel. Il y a toute une affaire à découvrir.

L.J.: Vous feriez de cette boîte crânienne quelque chose de vivant? D.H.: Il faut premièrement l'entourer d'informations qui répondent à la plus simple des questions: pourquoi y a-t-il un trou dans cette tête? Il faut se poser les questions comme le font les enfants. De façon

élémentaire. Qu'avait cette personne pour nécessiter une opération? Était-ce un homme ou une femme? A-t-elle survécu? Qui a pratiqué l'opération? Avec quels instruments? La tête se transformera alors en fenêtre de culture. Notre tâche à nous est de créer un contexte animé pour stimuler la curiosité des visiteurs à l'égard de l'objet exposé. Sinon, ce crâne ne sera intéressant que pour les chercheurs, c'est à dire les mieux informés.

L.J.: Les musées jordanien sont-ils attrayants? D.H.: Celui d'Irbid transmet mieux un sens de l'histoire que ceux d'Amman. Néanmoins, je pense qu'ils souffrent tous d'un problème majeur des musées, quels qu'ils soient: Ce sont des réseaux d'information pour les spécialistes et le grand public s'y ennue. Il faut les transformer en lieu de loisir, qui transmet des connaissances et élargit l'esprit.

L.J.: Il faut donc pousser les gens à chercher à comprendre... D.H.: Oui. Au sens classique du mot, musée veut dire siège des muses. Ce la veut notamment dire qu'un musée ne doit pas être seulement un reposoir de vestiges du passé, mais aussi un lieu où les objets vivent, sont en relation avec le présent et même le futur.

Propos recueillis par Sami Kamal.

EXPOSITIONS

La Bande Dessinée. La BD est un nouveau langage. Des illustrateurs et des dessinateurs racontent leur travail, leur démarche, leurs passions (projections vidéo). Centre culturel français, du mardi 5 au dimanche 10 juin. Diffusion tous les jours à 16h00.

CONFÉRENCES

Archéologie. Porte de Tibériade et cimetière musulman d'Abu Nam: les chercheurs Birgit Merschen (assistante de recherche au Yarmouk) et Thomas Weber (directeur de recherche) présentent les résultats des fouilles menées entre 1986 et 1989 à Gadara-Umm Qais par l'Institut ouest-allemand protestant d'archéologie d'Amman. Institut Goethe, mardi 5 juin à 19h00 (en anglais).

Charles Nodier. Le directeur du CCF présente l'intellectuel français, qui, à cheval sur les XIXe et XXe siècles, est à la fois le «parrain» des romantiques et un précurseur du surréalisme. Centre culturel français, mercredi 6 juin à 18h00 (2ème partie; en français).

JEUX

Mots croisés

Par Florence Montiel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: effrayer. 2: homme de main; adjectif possessif. 3: pronom personnel; séduire. 4: couleurs; règle. 5: choisi; sur les tombes. 6: adjectif possessif; manche au tennis. 7: dans latin; pas attachées. 8: ordonnance; article. 9: serpent. 10: adjectif possessif; noées.

Verticalement.

A: discussions. B: pas beaucoup; pas rapide. C: valeur refuge; transport en commun. D: propre au raisin; est obligé. E: rapidement; lettre grecque. F: responsables. G: Arbres de l'éucalyptus. H: féminin. I: décapitez. J: pas fréquent; forme le squelette.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 12:

Horizontalement.

1: spectacles. 2: outrés. 3: Ré; piano. 4: dressent. 5: ai; sa; nets. 6: immolées. 7: ne; né; tu. 8: être; tentes. 9: tant; ôté. 10: es; entiers.

Verticalement.

A: soudaineté. B: pu; rimera. C: être; en. D: cresson; te. E: té; saletés. F: aspe; est. G: amées. H: tentes; Tom. I: tête. J: seuls; user.

CINEMA

"Anne", de John Huston, avec Albert Finney, Carol Burnett et Bernadette Peters. Adaptation de l'une des comédies musicales les plus célèbres de Broadway. Centre américain, dimanche 3 et jeudi 7 juin à 19h00 (en anglais).

"Geboren 1949" (né en 1949) et "Exodus from East Germany" (coursis métrages). Impressions d'Allemagne 44 ans après la deuxième guerre et première ouverture à l'Est en 1989. Institut Goethe, samedi 9 juin à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en arabe).

VENDREDI

17h30 - "Le Conte de Monte-Cristo", (1ère partie), de Claude Autant-Lara, avec Louis Jourdan, Yvonne Furneaux et Pierre Mondy. Accusé de bonapartisme alors qu'il craint de voyager, Edmond Dantes est jeté au cachot du château d'If, situé sur une île. Il est victime d'une machination. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Portraits, ou métiers de femmes. Cette semaine: la repas-seuse.

SAMEDI

17h30 - Champs Elysées, émission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker. Invité: Antoine. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France: documentaire.

SAMEDI

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

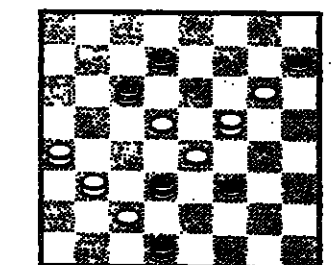
BLE SAOUDIEN. Les agriculteurs américains s'inquiètent de plus en plus des exportations subventionnées de blé saoudien et des ventes récentes du royaume à leur meilleur client: l'Union Soviétique. L'Arabie Saoudite s'est en effet immiscée sur les marchés internationaux des Etats-Unis et de l'Australie via des subventions «exorbitantes» de 14,40 dollars par boisseau à la production, permettant de dégager un profit brut de 1.500 dollars à l'hectare de culture, selon des experts américains. «Alors que le bon sens et les faits économiques semblent indiquer que l'Arabie Saoudite devrait importer et non exporter [des céréales], il n'en demeure pas moins que ce pays [en] a exporté 2,4 millions de tonnes en 1989», notent-ils, en déplorant «le gaspillage d'eau dans le désert saoudien» que cette production implique.

SOUPÇON SUISSE. Les Suisses ont perdu confiance dans leurs banques à la suite des affaires de blanchiment d'argent de la drogue récemment révélées, selon un récent sondage. L'enquête, publiée par "L'Hebdo de Lausanne" et le magazine économique "Cash", indique de 61,6% des Helvètes considèrent ces pratiques «détestables». 36% des personnes interrogées déclarent d'ailleurs «moins confiance» dans leurs banques. Paradoxalement, ils y restent cependant fidèles: 71% des sondés préféreraient encore sans hésitation une banque suisse à un établissement étranger pour placer leurs économies.

DAMES

Problème N. 13.

Les blancs gagnent en six coups.



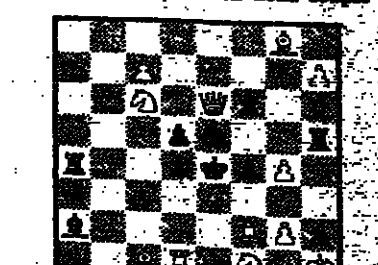
Solution du problème N. 12:

B. 23-20; N. 24-15; B. 27-23; N. 31-24; B. 14-10; N. 13-6; B. 22-13; N. 15-22; B. 23-20; N. 24-15; B. 5-10; N. 9-18; B. 10-26.

ECHECS

Problème N. 13.

Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 12:

Re5-b5.

Voilà. Une grande solitude m'envahit. Je voudrais bien que cette femme ne disparaisse pas. Je ne veux pas la perdre, mais ne sais comment la rejoindre. Je ne peux qu'attendre. Vale Egeria!

Amman

Eddery to partner Quest for Fame in Epsom Derby

LONDON (R) — English champion jockey, Pat Eddery, has decided to ride Quest for Fame in next week's Epsom Derby, spurning long-time ante-post favourite Digression.

Digression, who threw the Derby betting market into confusion last week by flopping in his final pre-Derby trial at Goodwood, will now be partnered by Walter Swinburn.

Digression is one of a string of expensive colts to have come unstuck in Derby trials, making Britain's premier flat race the most open in years. Both horses, priced around 10-1, are owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

The surprise winner of the Goodwood race, Razeen, owned by Sheikh Mohammad and trained by Henry Cecil, is now clear 11-4 favourite. Razeen will be partnered by Steve Cauthen, who has ridden two derby winners for Cecil in the last five years.

Cecil's stable has announced that it will be sending another Sheikh Mohammad-owned colt, River God, to Epsom for next Wednesday's classic.

"Although inexperienced, he is a very balanced horse and we know he gets the trip, having won over a mile and a half," Cecil said.

River God, who won by a very

comfortable 10 lengths on his only outing this season, will be ridden by Irish champion Michael Kinane.

Second favourite in the betting is French 2,000 Guineas winner Linamix, who, with five competitive races under his belt, is a veteran compared to some of the relatively untried colts in the race.

Linamix was quoted at 11-2 Friday, out from 5-1 earlier in the week.

Zoman, runner-up to Linamix in the French classic, is third favourite at 6-1. In a training spin last week Zoman beat group one winner Iba Bey despite giving away 21 pounds (9.5 kgs).

Epervier Bleu hot favourite for French Derby

Meanwhile, Epervier Bleu is expected to start hot favourite to give jockey Dominique Boeuf his first win in the Prix Du Jockey Club — otherwise known as the French Derby — at Chantilly Sunday.

Epervier Bleu, owned by Daniel Wildenstein and trained by Elie Lellouche, made his debut at Saint-Cloud in March and has not looked back since.

He has obliterated the opposition in each of his four races, most recently when he beat Tarvisio by a length and a half in the

group one Prix Lupin at long-champ.

The colt is considered well able to handle the extra furlong and a half in the one and a half mile (2.4 km) classic.

A three-pronged British attack in the race is headed by theatrical Charmer, who will be ridden by Willie Carson for the first time.

Although he has not had much competition in his two successful outings this season — at Kempton and Newmarket — the manner of his victories has persuaded some to believe that he is a champion in the making.

Charmer's lack of experience in top-class company could, however, count against him.

Anvari, ridden by Michael Roberts, comes to Longchamp fresh from a decisive success in a group two race at Leopardstown. Pat Eddery's mount Sanglamo, owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, was a decisive winner of the Dante Stakes at York last month.

Best of Epervier Bleu's French opposition may from Roi De Rome, trained by Criquelette Head and ridden by her brother Freddy.

Roi De Rome proved just what a tough colt he is by fighting back to maintain his unbeaten record in the Prix De Guiche at Longchamp last month.

Graf shows strength

PARIS (R) — An ailing Steffi Graf, battling an apparent allergy to clay, still proved too much for Italy's Sandra Cecchini in a lacklustre third round match at the French Open tennis tournament Saturday.

The West German world number one, who has been suffering from a sinus problem since the tournament started, said she felt better but still looked a shadow of her normal self.

Graf, who pulled out of the women's doubles Wednesday because of her breathing problems, did little but keep the ball in play against Cecchini, ranked 26th, but the comfortable 6-2, 6-3 win was enough to take her into the last 16.

Cecchini, who beat Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in Berlin last month, smiled almost apologetically each time she hit a winner as the contest drew to a predictable close in 64 minutes.

The match, scheduled for Thursday, was delayed by 24 hours because of rain and a prolonged men's singles matches but the rest did not seem to have improved Graf's condition.

"The doctor said it was an allergy. It comes and goes. I have it often but always when I play here... but this is the worst I've ever had. I've never felt dizzy on court before," Graf said.

The effects of her allergy were obvious as she was broken four times by Cecchini.

But Graf, who had previously not dropped her serve once in the tournament, was more to blame, making too many unforced errors.

There were occasional flashes of her healthier self and her powerful forehand helped her out of trouble on the rare occasions she needed it.

"I was sure it was not going to be easy so I'm happy about the result. The conditions were not easy at all..."

American teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati survived her hardest test so far in her first grand slam tournament, beating 12th seed Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-4, 6-4.

The 14-year-old, who had lost only three games in her two previous matches, was kept waiting one hour and 13 minutes before downing Wiesner, almost the combined amount of time she had spent on court in the earlier rounds.

Playing on the centre court, she recovered from a poor start and two early breaks to overpower her opponent, peppering the lines with her powerful forehand.

The Austrian, 10 years older than Capriati, seemed to recover in the middle of the second set, breaking the American twice, but then subsided on the first match point.

"I don't think I closed it out very well. I missed some easy shots, I was not as intense as I should have been to close it out and she came back from 5-2 to 5-4," said Capriati.

The early exit of holder Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the previous round now leaves the American with a good chance of a semifinal clash with Monica Seles of Yugoslavia.

But first she faces Argentine Mercedes Paz, the player who removed Sanchez from her path.

"The way she's playing she should be in the top 10. She hits the ball like Monica. She's not like a 14-year-old. Physically she's grown up," a respectful Wiesner said.

Seles was given a tough match by the Soviet Union's Lilia Meskhi, who forced two tie-breaks before the 16-year-old Yugoslav managed to win 7-6, 7-6 after 109 minutes.

On the women's side, Sozy Favour of the University of Wisconsin produced the top women's 800 metres time of the season, one minute 59.11 seconds, and former U.S. Olympian Mark Everett of the University of Florida won the men's 800 metres in 1:44.70.

Sweden's Patrik Bodén, the men's world javelin record holder who attends the University of Texas, defended his U.S. Collegiate title but failed for the first time this season to better 80 metres as he threw 79.82 m.

Ballesteros quits Kemper Open early

POTOMAC, Maryland (AP) — Seve Ballesteros came to the Kemper Open with expectations of improving his game. He left two days early, still unable to find the solution to his erratic play.

After opening the tournament with a 2-over-par 73, Ballesteros shot a 72 Friday and missed the cut by one stroke. A double-bogey on no. 8 — his second in two days — contributed to his early exit.

Gil Morgan had a second-round 67 for a 135 and a one-shot lead over Scott Hoch. Five players, including first-round co-leaders Pat McGowan and Ted Schultz, were at 137.

Ballesteros entered the Kemper looking to sharpen his game for the U.S. Open, which gets under way on June 14. His main objective, he said, was to solve his hot-and-cold play.

It was that inconsistency that ousted him from the Kemper. He had two birdies in the first round but also had two horrid shots with a sand wedge — one of which bounced into a creek.

His second-round 72 was better, but the double-bogey was too much to overcome.

Morgan, meanwhile, completed 36 holes with only one bogey. With four birdies on the first eight holes Friday, he put himself in position to win his first PGA event since 1983.

"I've been hitting the ball well but my putting hasn't been very consistent," he said. "Maybe my luck is changing this week."

Hoch and Morgan, playing in a threesome with John Inman, battled each other all day. They were tied entering the final hole, but Hoch fell behind when he overshoot a 50-foot birdie putt and missed an eight-foot comebacker for par.

It was his only bogey of the day.

Starting on the back nine, Morgan had birdies on nos. 11, 14, 15 and 17. He then shot six straight pars before sinking a 25-foot birdie-putt on no. 6 to go 8-under.

He missed a 10-foot putt for par on no. 8 — his only lapse in two rounds — then parred the ninth hole to take the lead.

Morgan, 43, said his personal battle with Hoch lifted his game. "It's always good to play with someone playing well," Morgan said. "We were kind of competing against each other on those last few holes."

Holyfield heads for a possible pot of gold

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Evander Holyfield's road to a heavyweight championship fight overcame a small bump and now heads toward a possible pot of gold.

Seamus McDonagh wasn't the dangerous puncher he was advertised to be and was knocked down twice in the first round Friday night before being stopped in the fourth round.

Holyfield now must await the results of a purse bid on June 10 to see who will promote champion Buster Douglas' mandatory title defence against Holyfield.

"The WBA will conduct purse bids for the Douglas-Holyfield fight Sunday, June 10," James Binns, lawyer for the World Boxing Association (WBA), said at the post-fight news conference.

Douglas is fighting a complex legal battle to break a promotional contract with Don King. The fight with McDonagh was much simpler.

"If I'm going to be the heavyweight champion, then I have to take on all comers," said Holyfield, who improved to 24-0 with 20 knockouts.

McDonagh proved to be little competition, powerless to stop Holyfield's left jab and stumbling to keep up.

"The whole thing seemed to

happen in 10 seconds," said McDonagh, a native of Ireland now majoring in English literature in New York at St. John's University.

McDonagh, who fell to 19-2-1 with 14 knockouts, was knocked down for the third and final time at 44 seconds of the fourth round of a scheduled 12-rounder.

The two fighters were exchanging blows when McDonagh threw a right but was beaten to the punch by a left hook that crashed against his jaw. He went down in a heap and struggled up at the count of nine. Referee Joe Cortez stopped the mismatch.

McDonagh came charging out in the first round and winged some wild punches before he and Holyfield got tangled up and fell to the canvas, with Holyfield on top.

McDonagh continued his aggressiveness until he was hit with a left hook to the forehead that dropped him at 1:11 of the round. He immediately got up and took an eight-count, then went down again at 2:33 from a right to the side of the head.

Again, he bounced up and took an eight-count, then was saved from further punishment by the bell.

Holyfield peppered McDonagh

in the second and third rounds with punishing left jabs, occasional combinations, right-hand leads and body punches.

In the third round, Holyfield opened a cut over McDonagh's left eye. In that round, McDonagh got home perhaps his best punch of the fight, a right to the head, but it did him no good.

Early in the fourth round, Holyfield hurt McDonagh with two right hands to the head, and then finished him.

"At the time, we were trading punches, and I hit him with a left hook on the chin," Holyfield said.

Dan Duva, Holyfield's promoter, said the fight should show that the former cruiserweight has heavyweight punching power.

"It was proved tonight that he can fight and fight all comers," said Duva, who hopes to get a title match for his man before Douglas fights anyone else. "Evander is going to fight this fall against Buster Douglas for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world."

Holyfield got \$1.2 million while McDonagh, who came to the United States from Ireland in 1982 and now lives in Brooklyn, made \$100,000, by far his biggest payday.

Look at number 10 for World Cup stars

ROME (R) — Looking for World Cup stars in Italy? watch out for the number 10.

The glamorous number 10 jersey will be sported by a choice band of soccer virtuosos, each with the inherent ability to dictate the destiny of both their teams and the title.

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Appropriately enough, they are a band of exactly 10.

The list starts with Diego Maradona, who guided Argentina to the world title four years ago in Mexico with the help of the "hand of God" and his own unpredictable genius.

It continues with Rudi Voller, the dreadlocked Dutchman who has exerted an extraordinary influence on the revival of his nation's soccer fortunes.

It includes established stars like Lothar Matthaus of West Ger-

many, Gary Lineker of England, Belgium's Enzo Scifo, Igor Protasov of the Soviet Union and South American ball artists Carlos Valderrama of Colombia and Silas of Brazil.

It ends with the new wave of East European playmakers, Gheorghe Hagi of Romania and Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic.

That the stars of so many top nations should wear the number 10 jersey is no coincidence.

When the incomparable Pele, who appeared in three Brazilian World Cup winning teams between 1958 and 1970, stamped his personality on the game, he gave a particular allure to the number he wore.

Just about every small boy who started kicking a football aspired to don the shirt of the sport's top idol.

Pele also created a new role as Brazil led a tactical revolution, switching from the traditional 2-3-5 formation to 4-2-4. Till then, the number 10 had been an inside forward, a deep-lying midfielder.

Falcon runs fastest 5,000 of year

EUGENE, Oregon (R) — Joe Falcon, a former University of Arkansas star, ran the world's fastest 5,000 metres this year, clocking 13 minutes 20.49 seconds in the Prefontaine Classic Friday.

Falcon, who usually runs the mile or 1,500 metres, blew past eventual runnerup Doug Padilla with 300 metres as he covered the final lap in 55 seconds.

"I wasn't sure how to run this distance," Falcon said. "I didn't feel good. The pace felt too slow, and I felt too sloppy. But this shows I'm in good sprint shape and that I should be able to run a great mile."

Svetlana Kitova of the Soviet Union won the women's 2,000 in 5:41.11, edging Canada's Debbie Bowker, who clocked 5:41.32.

"I ran very easy and felt very strong at the finish," Kitova said. "I wanted a faster pace and also not as much cold and not so much wind."

Alberto Salazar, 31, the former American record-holder at 10,000 metres, won that event in 29:09.22, just missing the 29:06 qualifying standard for the national championships on June 12-16 in Cerritos, California.

"But it felt good to win," said Salazar, once the world's best marathoner before injuries struck.

In Durham, North Carolina, American sprinters Leroy Burrell and Michael Johnson ran the fastest 100 and 200 metres in the world this season at the U.S. Collegiate championships Friday.

Burrell, a University of Houston student and training partner of world record holder Carl Lewis, won his 100 metres semifinal heat in an impressive 10.01 seconds.

Johnson, who attends Baylor University, later clocked a fast 20.18 seconds in his 200 metres semifinal.

"He (Burrell) ran a great race," said Tom Tellez, who coaches both Lewis and Burrell. "He got out well, accelerated well and maintained it, and he did it very relaxed."

On the women's side, Sozy Favour of the University of Wisconsin produced the top women's 800 metres time of the season, one minute 59.11 seconds, and former U.S. Olympian Mark Everett of the University of Florida won the men's 800 metres in 1:44.70.

Sweden's Patrik Bodén, the men's world javelin record holder who attends the University of Texas, defended his U.S. Collegiate title but failed for the first time this season to better 80 metres as he threw 79.82 m.

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(Arabic)
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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
Tom Cruise in
LOSINIT
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

Cambodian rebel leader in Tokyo Sihanouk foresees big problems in Monday's talks with Hun Sen

TOKYO (AP) — Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Tokyo Saturday with a statement that cast a shadow over peace talks that start Monday.

Sihanouk said in a statement issued as he arrived that there would be a "major problem" because the Khmer Rouge insisted on signing a ceasefire agreement as an equal partner. The Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia refuses to accept the Khmer Rouge as an equal.

Before he left Peking for Tokyo, Sihanouk said in an interview that even if the Tokyo talks resulted in a ceasefire agreement, the fighting would continue.

He said the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three guerrilla factions, had told him they were unhappy with the agreement crafted by Thai Defence Minister Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

The Khmer Rouge claim Vietnamese troops still occupy Cambodia and Vietnam has annexed Cambodian territory, and that until these issues were settled "there will be a necessity to continue to fight."

Sihanouk said: "So there will be a possibility that in Tokyo the Khmer Rouge will more or less sabotage the peace process."

The Japanese government, which is hosting the two-day Cambodian peace meeting, is playing down expectations of major progress.

Sihanouk has called for the reconvening of the Paris conference on Cambodia, which ended in failure last year, to set up an international control mechanism to supervise a ceasefire.

Fighting was reported intensifying in Cambodia. Aid officials at the Thai-Cambodia border have noted an increase in war casualties in recent weeks as the combatants try for positional advantage in advance of the Tokyo talks.

Sihanouk's opposite number, Cambodian Premier Hun Sen, is due in Tokyo Sunday from Moscow.

The big question mark is posed by the presence of Sihanouk's allies — the Communist Khmer Rouge led by its nominal head Khieu Samphan and the conservative faction led by former Premier Son Sann.

Hun Sen declared in a report by the official Cambodian News

Agency (SPK) Friday he had planned only to negotiate with Sihanouk.

Sihanouk Saturday said that by ostracising the Khmer Rouge, "indirectly Hun Sen encourages the Khmer Rouge to go on fighting."

Japanese officials were uncertain whether Sihanouk's allies would be seated at the talks or have a voice.

Sihanouk, in an Asahi Shimbun interview published Saturday, gave no hint of his position on seating arrangements at the Tokyo meeting. But he was quoted as saying that all four groups — the Hun Sen government and his three-member guerrilla coalition — should be permitted to contend in elections to choose a new government for Cambodia.

"Without such an election and without Khmer Rouge participation, we would never know and neither the Khmer Rouge, nor any other faction, would ever admit that they did have the public support they claim," he was quoted as saying.

Sihanouk was crowned king of Cambodia in 1941 when he was 19. After the country became independent of France in 1953, he abdicated in 1955 to lead a mass political party and managed to

steer a shaky neutral course during the Vietnam war. He was ousted in a 1970 military coup.

He teamed up with Khmer Rouge guerrillas, but when they took Phnom Penh in 1975 he was put under house arrest while the fanatical Communists pursued a ruthless course.

Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and the Khmer Rouge went back into the jungles, later emerging as the strongest guerrilla force. Sihanouk in 1982 agreed to head the three-way partnership with the Son Sann faction and his foes, the Khmer Rouge.

Vietnam said it pulled out its last troops last year, but continues to provide key support to the Hun Sen government.

"People wonder why I have not separated myself from the Khmer Rouge, who have been likened to Hitler for their atrocities," Sihanouk was quoted as saying in Asahi Shimbun.

"I need not defend myself on charges that I am a 'supporter of the Khmer Rouge.' I spent four years under house arrest in Phnom Penh while they were in power, isolated from my family and foreign leaders, who were prohibited from contacting me, and worse, five of my own children and countless relatives were executed by them."

Gunmen kill British officer, soldier in separate attacks in U.K., Germany

LONDON (AP) — A British officer and a soldier were killed in separate attacks in West Germany, just hours after masked gunmen shot a British soldier and a British officer in a station in England, the Ministry of Defence said.

No one claimed responsibility for the shootings. Defence Secretary Tom King said he assumed the attacks were the work of the IRA. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) is conducting an offensive against British troops stationed in Britain and the European continent as part of its campaign to force the British out of Northern Ireland.

The Defence Ministry said Maj. Michael John Dillon-Lee of the Royal Artillery was shot as he drove with his wife from the military base in Dortmund, West Germany to their home.

Dillon-Lee was shot several times in the head after he stopped his car in front of his house, the ministry said. He died immediately. His wife was not injured. Police said one of their officers was shot and wounded as police cars chased the gunmen, who escaped.

The British, meanwhile, police said they were looking for two masked men who fled the scene of the shooting at Lichfield City station, 100 kilometres northwest of London.

Sootland Yard said an anti-terrorist squad was assisting with the investigation.

Chief Inspector Tony Johnson of the Staffordshire Police said the shooting "bears the hallmarks of an IRA attack." He did not elaborate.

Authorities said the three soldiers were shot while waiting on a platform for a train Friday. Witnesses said the gunfire sent commuters fleeing.

The three soldiers, who were in training at the Lichfield Army Base, were waiting for a train to nearby Birmingham for weekend leave, said detective Chief Superintendent Malcolm Bevington.

He said two masked men appeared on the platform, pulled out handguns and shot the soldiers, then jumped onto the tracks, ran across the line and through a builder's yard opposite the station.

Tiananmen Square closed to public

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities closed Tiananmen Square to the public Saturday and held a children's carnival in an effort to head off commemorations of last year's army attack on student protesters.

Thousands of grammar-school children played games at brightly coloured booths on the balloon-festooned square. Some games involved manoeuvring remote-control tanks through mazes, and others involved shooting toy rifles at targets.

Paramilitary police guarded the square and kept out anyone without a ticket for the event.

Authorities are holding special events in the square through Monday as part of an effort to prevent protests or commemorations of last year's student-led demonstrations for democratic reform.

The army crushed the protests June 3-4 when it fought its way into the city through crowds of civilians supporting the students.

Hundreds — possibly thousands — of people were killed.

The students' headquarters was at Tiananmen Square, the symbolic heart of Peking. Its stone pavement still bears the scars of tank treads and fire from when the soldiers burned student tents, and the steps of its tall Monument to Revolutionary Martyrs are still broken at the edges from armoured vehicles.

Some underground activists said they would like to make commemorative gestures in the square Sunday or Monday, but that it would be too dangerous. Students talked about fasting or holding a candlelight vigil on a university campus or at another location, but it was not clear if authorities would permit either action.

On at least one Peking campus, teachers were assigned to make bed checks in student dormitories each night this weekend.

At Peking University, official dance parties were scheduled for

each weekend night.

Unusually large numbers of police and police vehicles were in central Peking late Friday night. Some police and soldiers were on Tiananmen Square. The streets looked normal during the day Saturday.

Authorities are planning a ceremony in the square Sunday to commemorate the 1840 Opium War against Britain, which official histories describe as an example of foreign imperialist aggression against China. The war was triggered by British trade in opium bought in India and sold in China, where it became a major social problem.

On Monday, June 4, 2,000 taxis were to gather in the square to practice safe driving.

Police have reported stepped-up arrests of vagrants and common criminals in Peking and Shanghai in the past week, apparently as part of the effort to keep order during the sensitive weekend.

Filipino troops stage show of force against Communist rebels

MANILA (AP) — Hundreds of Filipino troops backed by armoured vehicles staged a show of force against Communist rebels Saturday after U.S. officials barred American troops from leaving nearby Clark Air Base except on essential business.

About 500 soldiers and police motored through the streets brandishing M-16 rifles and carrying banners denouncing the New People's Army. The motorcade passed in front of Clark Air Base and through rebel-infested neighbourhoods.

Police Lt.-Col. Julius Yarcia announced formation of neighbourhood vigilante groups to help fight the rebels, who have operated in this city 80 kilometres

north of Manila for decades. "We just want to convince the people that we are willing to fight and that we have the manpower and the firepower to fight the enemy," Yarcia told reporters.

On Friday, U.S. officials announced renewed restrictions on the 20,300 troops, Defence Department civilians and military dependents at Clark, one of six U.S. bases in the Philippines. Officials cited an undisclosed security threat in the area, where Communist rebels killed two U.S. airmen last month.

Lt.-Col. Ron Rand, a U.S. military spokesman, said security patrols around the sprawling base had been doubled to protect American lives.

Philippine intelligence sources,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said rebel troop movements Friday prompted the U.S. decision to restrict movement of U.S. personnel.

Yarcia said that in addition to the civilian vigilantes, two companies of troops from the elite Philippine Constabulary Regional battalions already stationed in the city.

Communist guerrillas have fought for 21 years to establish a Marxist state and have pledged to continue attacking Americans until all U.S. troops leave the Philippines.

Eight Americans have died in politically motivated violence in the Philippines since April 1989.

Actor Rex Harrison dies

LONDON (R) — British Actor Rex Harrison, whose stage and screen career spanned more than six decades, died in New York at the age of 82, his agent Lawrence Evans said Saturday.

Harrison, who was appearing in a Broadway production until three weeks ago, died of cancer of the pancreas.

Harrison, best known as the quintessentially English Professor Higgins in the musical *My Fair Lady*, was part of a generation which produced such giants of the British stage as Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson.

Suave, cultured and impeccably mannered in his most famous acting roles, Harrison, was married six times, lastly when he was already 70 years old.

Bomb blast injures 10 in Colombia

CARTAGENA, Colombia (R) — A bomb hidden in an ice cream cart rocked the Colombian resort city of Cartagena injuring 10 people as the national police chief and other officials were celebrating the inauguration of the city's new mayor.

Stepping up its crackdown on the drug trade, meanwhile, the government clamped strict controls Friday on the import, transportation and storage of chemicals used to manufacture cocaine, such as acetone, ether and hydrochloric acid.

The bomb interrupted the swearing-in ceremony, exploding just as Liberal Party Mayor Nicolas Curi was giving Cartagena residents in his inaugural address "to face up to violence and defend the city at all costs."

Two people including a 12-year-old boy were arrested minutes after the explosion, according to police, who added that one of the suspects had flown into Cartagena Thursday from Medellin, hub of the nation's violent drug trade.

General Octavio Vargas, operations chief of the national police, said the bomb, made of about 25 kilograms of dynamite, had been placed inside an ice cream vendor's cart and detonated by remote control.

Police said 10 people were injured in the blast in the Fie de la Popa district, near the colonial city's main tourist attractions and about 100 metres from local security police headquarters. The bomb shattered windows in nearby buildings.

A government decree said imports of the precursor chemicals would in future be able to enter Colombia through only four ports, where customs agents and police would run thorough checks on the suppliers, purchasers and end-use of the chemicals, which are also used by legitimate industries.

More than 1,000 mayors elected last March took office across Colombia Friday.

Reporter detained in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Indian troops detained an Indian journalist Saturday who was covering the separatist fighting in Kashmir for Western news organisations, witnesses said. Security officials denied knowing of his whereabouts.

Indian army soldiers came to the house of reporter Yusuf Jameel early Saturday and peacefully took him to an undisclosed location, said the witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Senior army and police officers in Srinagar, speaking on condition their names not be used, denied that Jameel was in their custody and said they had no information about his whereabouts.

Jameel has reported for the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) for about five years and for Reuters, the British news agency, for about two years. He also reported for Time magazine, which is based in New York and for the Telegraph, a major Indian daily based in Calcutta.

BBC and Reuters staffers in New Delhi said they had received no information on Jameel's whereabouts.

The Indian Army Public Relations Office in Srinagar issued a statement denying the army was involved in any way.

India has discouraged foreign reporters from travelling to the area although the restrictions are not strictly enforced.

In Srinagar, Kashmir's capital, shops opened for the first time in 12 days Saturday and people flocked to stores to stock up on food. A combination of round-the-clock curfews imposed by the government and strikes ordered by Muslim militants have made daily life difficult here.

On Friday, a teen-age boy was installed as Kashmir's top Muslim cleric, succeeding his assassinated father. About 100,000 Muslims thronged to the Jama Masjid, Kashmir's largest mosque, to welcome 16-year-old Umar Farooq and renew their calls for independence.

Umar's father, Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, was killed by three unidentified gunmen in his Srinagar home on May 21. A few hours later security forces opened fire on a curfew-defying crowd carrying Farooq's body, killing at least 58 people and wounding hundreds more.

The toll was the highest in one day in security force action since India launched a crackdown on Kashmiri separatists on Jan. 20.

At least 486 people have been killed since January. Most were militants or supporters of the campaign for the separation of Jammu-Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, from predominantly Hindu India.

Kashmir was divided along a still-disputed frontier between India and Pakistan after British colonial India became independent in 1947 and was partitioned along religious lines.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the territory, in 1947 and 1965.

Relations between the two nations have sunk to their lowest point in years over the Kashmir issue. India accuses Pakistan of funding and training the militants. Pakistan denies the claim and says India is crushing a movement for self-determination.

About 64 per cent of the 6 million people in Indian-governed Jammu-Kashmir are Muslims. Nationwide, Muslims account for 12 per cent of India's 880 million people while Hindus comprise 82 per cent.

U.S., Soviet first ladies extoll role of women in rapidly changing world

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts (AP) — Barbara Bush and Raisa Gorbachev shared a college platform to extoll the role of the contemporary woman in a rapidly changing world.

Far from the site of their husbands' Washington summit, they gave advice to 575 students gathered for a commencement ceremony at the all-women's Wellesley College.

Mrs. Bush, who dropped out of college to marry George Bush during World War II, wore a black academic robe with a purple cowl. Mrs. Gorbachev, a philosophy Ph.D. and former university lecturer, wore a plaid gray suit and pink blouse.

Mrs. Bush was undaunted by the student petition questioning whether a house-maker wife was a suitable role model for the graduates of this elite college.

She spoke unabashedly of her life, while urging the young women to pursue careers if they wish.

Mrs. Bush got hearty applause when she said: "Somewhere out

Quebec premier optimistic Canada to work out crisis

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa has said he is optimistic that Canada's leaders will work out their bitter constitutional differences rather than risk the country's unity.

But Bourassa made it clear he was not prepared to make any concessions on the Meech Lake Accord, the constitutional amendment at the heart of the conflict that threatens to tear Canada apart.

The accord would give Quebec some of the powers it seeks over immigration and other policies to ensure the preservation of its French-speaking culture.

The premiers of the mainly English-speaking provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Manitoba have refused to approve it, saying the accord would hand Quebec too much power.

"Never has English Canada been presented with such modest demands," Bourassa told Reuters in an interview on Friday. He said Quebec had whittled down its list from 22 demands to five.

"I am reasonably optimistic the accord will be ratified," he said. Referring to the recalcitrant premiers, he said, "to refuse (to ratify it) would be to take a big risk with Canada's future."

In a last effort to resolve the crisis that has reawakened Quebec's separatist yearnings, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has summoned the 10 premiers to a meeting Sunday in Ottawa.

The Meech Lake Accord, which essentially shifts some federal powers to the provinces, was unanimously approved in 1987 but some provincial leaders elected since then have refused to ratify the pact.

As the June 23 ratification deadline approaches, the impasse

has turned into a political nightmare. Polls show most Quebecers would want to secede from Canada if the Meech Lake Accord was rejected and English Canadians wonder what kind of country they would be left with.

Bourassa, a liberal, is not a separatist, not even a close one. "My first choice is clearly to stay within Canada," he said in a recent televised interview.

He campaigned for the federalists during the critical 1980 referendum on whether Quebec should separate, an option Quebecers rejected. He is also a longtime friend of Mulroney, who is working round-the-clock to prevent Canada's breakup.

But given the restless mood of his constituents, Bourassa cannot give in to English Canada without exposing his flank to the separatist Parti Quebecois, the party which defeated him as premier in a humiliating election sweep in the 1970s.

He has shed little light on what he plans to do if the accord fails. Bourassa, an economist with degrees from Harvard and Oxford, said a few months ago that Quebec might opt for a "supranational" relationship with the rest of Canada. He has not explained exactly what that means.

Political analysts say his primary objective has been to foster Quebec's economic growth.

Some political analysts believe he would aim for an association with English Canada along the lines of the European Community, which he studied during his years out of power before making a remarkable comeback in 1985.

Although he is vague about his own plans, he is precise in his criticism of the Parti Quebecois' platform to separate but continue to share the same currency with English Canada.

Soviet summit coverage reflects turmoil at home

MOSCOW (R) — Pressing domestic issues, from economic reform to mounting political opposition, have shaped Soviet media coverage of President Mikhail Gorbachev's summit talks in Washington.

Only with the signing of major trade accords and arms control statements at the second day of the summit has Soviet press coverage shifted from the long shadows cast by the election of rival Boris Yeltsin to the Russian presidency and turmoil over planned price rises.

Leading newspapers Saturday devoted large chunks of their front pages to the summit, most featuring photographs of a relaxed Gorbachev smiling with U.S. President George Bush.

Central television screened at length triumphant scenes of the ceremonies and tours surrounding the summit. But the media remained rooted in the domestic crises awaiting Gorbachev's return.

Newspapers still give front page coverage to the troubled economy and the restive parliament of the Russian Federation, the biggest and most powerful of the 15 Soviet republics.

Friday evening's main television news bulletin also gave ample time to domestic stories and other foreign items, in contrast to past practice of showing nothing but the leader's summit trip.

Scenes of a big demonstration in Armenia, where 24 were killed earlier in the week in clashes between militants and Soviet troops, and of Yeltsin presiding over the Russian parliament were given equal prominence.

In another report, the televi-

sion news reader called for a greater measure of glasnost, or openness, on the health of workers who helped clean up after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Earlier in the week Soviet television dwelt at length on Gorbachev's remarks in Canada, where he blasted Yeltsin following his election as president of Russia.

Gorbachev suggested that Yeltsin, whom he sacked from the Communist Party politburo in 1988 for criticising the slow pace of reform, was playing "political games."

Gorbachev has also used the central media to comment on the state of the domestic economy — and its needs for radical overhaul — and to push his line that breakaway Lithuania is an internal political matter.

The Communist Party daily Pravda Saturday, echoing the Lithuanian theme, quoted a U.S. expert on Soviet-American relations as saying the Lithuanian question was an "uninvited guest" at the summit talks.

It also focused heavily on arms controls agreements signed by the two leaders, giving Soviet readers few hints of the central importance the German question has had on the meetings. Gorbachev is resisting Western demands that a unified German state must be a full member of NATO.

Unlike the Central Press, Soviet television has given prominent coverage to Raisa Gorbachev's visit, including a stop at the U.S. Library of Congress.

Gorbachev's wife is generally unpopular at home, lampooned for her stylish clothes and the influence she appears to have over her husband.

deal of credit for that to women," she said. Demonstrators demanding independence for the Baltic states hoisted a banner aloft reading "free the Baltic states" during the playing of the Soviet anthem.

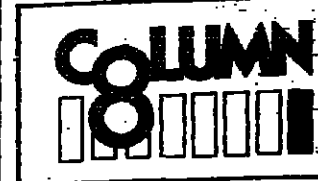
It was the first time the two first ladies ever shared a public platform, and Wellesley President Nannerl O. Keohane called it "another step in the glasnost that brings a new spirit of cooperation between our two countries."

The two first ladies afterwards toured nearby Boston, twice emerging from their limousines to wade into tumultuous crowds of well-wishers. They joined arms and held their hands aloft to the delight of the crowd.

Chatting with reporters as they toured Boston Public Garden, the U.S. and Soviet first ladies professed a fondness for each other.

"I simply feel very at home and comfortable with Mrs. Gorbachev and I have enormous respect for her," Mrs. Bush said.

"If people in the world today are more confident of a peaceful future, we have to give a good



Up to 30 Van Goghs are fakes-expert

LONDON (R) — A West German art expert was quoted as saying he believed up to 30 paintings by Van Gogh, whose works have set price records, are fakes. Other art historians attending a symposium on Van Gogh in London described the claim as exaggerated, although they agreed that no all paintings attributed to the prolific Dutch painter were authentic.

Roland Dorn, a Van Gogh expert from the Folkwang Museum in Essen, told the Times there were 20 to 30 paintings in the "Catalogue Raisonne" or definitive list of paintings officially attributed to Van Gogh "which do not really belong."

Dorn said many fakes are thought to have been produced between 1900 and 1914, well after the artist committed suicide at the age of 37 having sold only one painting in his life. Evert Van Ufford, professor of modern art at the University of Amsterdam, told reporters at the symposium that he agreed with some of Dorn's claims. He cited self-portrait Van Gogh had given his friend Paul Gauguin which was copied by a Miss Gerard.

"The painting was exactly the same as the one Gauguin had but Gerard added a few extra flowers in the background as a private joke," Van Ufford said.

Jail sentence for Van Gogh thief upheld

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutch court has turned down an appeal by a man convicted of stealing three paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, worth tens of millions of dollars each. The 38-year-old Dutchman, identified only as A.W.B., was sentenced last October to five years in prison for his part in the Netherlands' biggest ever art theft. The case of a second man, also sentenced to five years in prison, will be heard on June 29, a court spokeswoman said. Thieves made off with three of the 19th century Dutch artist's works after breaking into the Kroller-Mueller Museum in the east of the Netherlands in December 1988. The paintings — "Weavers' Loom and Weaver," the "Potato Eaters" and "Withering Sunflowers" — have since been found. Van Gogh's paintings have sold for record prices in recent years. His Portrait of Doctor Gachet became the world's most expensive picture when it sold at auction in New York last month for \$82.5 million.

E. German city reverts to old name

EAST BERLIN (R) — One of East Germany's main industrial cities has reverted to its original name Chemnitz, 37 years after it was renamed Karl-Marx-Stadt by the then Stalinist leadership. The city council voted overwhelmingly to scrap Karl-Marx-Stadt in favour of Chemnitz at a recent meeting, the East German News Agency (ADN) said. People in the city, in the south of East Germany, voted in a referendum in April in favour of changing the town's name. Both names had to be used until the newly-elected city council approved the decision.

Farmer arrested for nighttime plowing

CHICAGO (AP) — A farmer in a once-rural area has been arrested for plowing his fields too late at night after a neighbour in an adjoining plot complained that the drone of the tractor was keeping him awake. "The way I feel, he moved next to the field — the field didn't move next to him," said Ray Dettmeyer, who farms 600 acres (243 hectares) about 48 kilometres south of Chicago. "The only question I have is, this fall when I go to harvest it, what happens then?" Dettmeyer's neighbour, Leonard Reh, said he, too, must make a living. And he can't because of the noise. "I don't want to stop him from making his living," said Reh, a postal service employee. "But farming land at midnight is just a little bit too outrageous."

Reh's home is in a new subdivision in Matteson. The village has seen an influx of middle- and upper-middle class commuters in recent years. Reh and other neighbours say that since they must turn their lawnmowers off at 7 p.m. because of village ordinances, why should a farm tractor be different? And so, about 11 p.m. on April 26, police responded to Reh's complaint. They tromped through muddy fields to arrest Dettmeyer and his wife, Kathy, and a hired hand finished plowing the land he leased.

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